UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/3

Distr.: General
30 May 2014

English only

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Results of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note highlights resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, mainly at its sixty-eighth session, that are relevant to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Special attention has been given to resolutions adopted at both the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions that are related to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document, "The future we want", and to the process of strengthening and upgrading UNEP, as well as other measures and reforms related to the institutional framework for sustainable development.

In addition, detailed reference is made to those resolutions that will require specific actions by UNEP, either individually or as part of the United Nations system as a whole.

Consideration has been also given to resolutions with provisions of regional significance.

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

K1401142 180614

I. Introduction

1. During the initial part of its sixty-eighth session, from 17 September to 27 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted 260 resolutions covering diverse areas including sustainable development and other environmental, social and economic matters; administrative and budgetary matters; disarmament and international security; human rights, social, humanitarian and cultural matters; and matters related to cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

2. A significant number of those resolutions are of direct relevance to the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), particularly its sub-programmes: environmental governance, ecosystem management, climate change, disasters and conflicts, chemicals and waste and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production.

3. Notably, a significant number of resolutions included links to sustainable development and included provisions related to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals framework to the post-2015 development agenda.

4. A total of 41 draft resolutions were recommended for General Assembly adoption by the Second Committee, whose deliberations and decisions on economic and financial issues are of special relevance to UNEP, particularly with regard to resolutions on specific environmental matters, sustainable development and the follow-up to decisions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) on strengthening and upgrading UNEP and the wider institutional framework for sustainable development.

5. The Second Committee recommended that the General Assembly adopt resolution 68/215, on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. In its resolution 66/288, the Assembly endorsed the outcome document, "The future we want", and subsequently, in resolution 68/215, it called for the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP in accordance with subparagraphs 88 (a) to (h) of the outcome document, as endorsed by the Assembly, as well as with decisions adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its first universal session, held in February 2013.

6. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly adopt resolution 68/210, on the Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which provides for further follow-up on various provisions of "The future we want", with particular focus on the institutional framework for sustainable development, including provisions related to the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

7. In addition, some decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly before the start of the sixty-eighth session will have considerable impact on the functioning of the institutional framework for sustainable development. Those include resolution 67/290, on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and decision 67/564, on the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. While the present note focuses on resolutions adopted during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, summaries of resolution 67/290 and decision 67/564 have been included on an exceptional basis, taking into account that because of their dates of adoption they could not be included in the note prepared for the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council on resolutions adopted at the sixty-seventh session.

8. The following sections summarize the General Assembly resolutions that are relevant to UNEP, underlining not only their main provisions, but also their significance to the Programme's mandate and future work: section II includes resolutions related to the follow-up to "The future we want", including the institutional framework for sustainable development and the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP; section III refers to resolutions that will require UNEP to contribute to follow-up actions; and section IV highlights other resolutions that could present opportunities or interlinkages with respect to the UNEP programme of work, including those of regional significance. The summaries of resolutions are organized chronologically under each section, following their assigned symbols and numbers. All resolutions adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session are available online at www.un.org/en/ga/68/resolutions.shtml.

II. Implementation of the Rio+20 outcome, including with regard to the institutional framework for sustainable development the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP

A. Resolution 67/290. Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

9. Resolution 67/290, relevant to the UNEP environmental governance subprogramme, defined the organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development that was established in paragraph 84 of "The future we want". Through the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the forum should be convened every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly and annually at the ministerial level under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

10. Among other provisions, the resolution reaffirmed that the high-level political forum should provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

11. It also decided that, when under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the forum would, among other things, conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

12. With regard to the role of the organizations of the United Nations system, resolution 67/290 reaffirmed that the high-level political forum would take into account the work of intergovernmental bodies in the social, economic and environmental fields. This provision is relevant to UNEP and its United Nations Environment Assembly.

13. The General Assembly also decided that the high-level political forum could provide recommendations to the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as to UNEP in its capacity as the secretariat of the framework.

B. Decision 67/564. Board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

14. By decision 67/564, relevant to the environmental governance and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes, the General Assembly took note of the establishment of the 10-member board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns in accordance with paragraph 226 of "The future we want" and resolution 67/203. In this regard, the Assembly also welcomed the membership of the board, as nominated by the five United Nations regional groups: South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania for Africa; Japan/Republic of Korea and Bangladesh/Indonesia for the Asia-Pacific region; Romania and the Russian Federation for Eastern Europe; Chile and Mexico for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Finland/Germany and Switzerland for the Western European and other States.

15. The General Assembly also decided that the board members would serve for an initial term of two years.

C. Resolution 68/1. Review of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

16. In resolution 68/1, relevant to the UNEP environmental governance subprogramme, the General Assembly adopted measures by which the Economic and Social Council would continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for coordinating the activities of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervising subsidiary bodies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences in those fields.

17. The General Assembly decided that the Economic and Social Council would adjust its programme of work to a July–July cycle and distribute the various segments of its traditional substantive session throughout the year. The Assembly also decided that Council would base its annual programme of work on a main theme that would be selected taking into account the role of the

Council in promoting the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the post-2015 development agenda.

D. Resolution 68/6. Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

18. Through resolution 68/6, world leaders at the 2013 General Assembly special event on the Millennium Development Goals renewed their commitment to the Goals and resolved to intensify efforts to achieve them by 2015. In the outcome document adopted at the event, they indicated that efforts must target, particularly, the goals on which the least progress had been made, including those relating to environmental sustainability.

19. The outcome document also referred to the global determination to craft a strong post-2015 development agenda that built on the Millennium Development Goals, completed unfinished business and responded to emerging challenges. The document reaffirmed the centrality of poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development in the future post-2015 agenda, through an approach that would involve working towards a single framework and set of goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking into account national circumstances, policies and priorities. Heads of State and Government also decided that the final phase of the intergovernmental work in this context would culminate in a summit in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and requested the President of the General Assembly to convene consultations on the organizational aspects of the summit.

E. Resolution 68/210. Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

20. In resolution 68/210, relevant to the environmental governance and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes, the General Assembly recalled the commitment to strengthen the Economic and Social Council and recognized its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; welcomed the outcome document of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and acknowledged processes such as the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the process for the development of options for a technology facilitation mechanism; and urged those processes to complete their work in a comprehensive and balanced manner by September 2014.

21. The General Assembly also took note of reports of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, welcomed the workshops at which those issues were discussed and decided to hold a new series of four one-day dialogues to consider possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism.

22. On matters directly linked to UNEP work as the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, the General Assembly welcomed the establishment of its 10-member board, recalled the decision that the high-level political forum on sustainable development might provide recommendations to the board and secretariat, and decided to review the arrangement to designate the Economic and Social Council as the ad interim Member State body to receive reports from the board and the secretariat at its sixty-ninth session, after the meeting of the high-level political forum in 2014.

F. Resolution 68/215. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

23. In resolution 68/215, which is central to the environmental governance subprogramme and the new environment under review subprogramme, the General Assembly welcomed the convening of the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2013 and took note of the report of the session. It also took note of several specific Governing Council decisions, including 27/2, on the implementation of paragraph 88 of "The future

we want", and 27/13, on the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and the biennial programme of work and budget for 2014–2015.

24. The General Assembly also took note of decision 27/11, on the state of the environment and UNEP contributions to meeting environmental challenges, and welcomed the request that the Executive Director strengthen the policy relevance of the Global Environment Outlook; UNEP inputs, as the leading global environmental authority, on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as well as in discussions on the scope and modalities of a global sustainable development report; and the proposal in the programme of work for 2014–2015 for the development of a gender and environment outlook. The resolution also reiterated the importance of capacity-building and technology support as important components of UNEP work and called for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

25. The Assembly welcomed the establishment of the board of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and recalled the decision that UNEP would serve as the secretariat of the framework.

26. The General Assembly took note of the inclusion by the Secretary-General of regular budget resources for the UNEP programme of work in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 and requested the Secretary-General to maintain the resource needs of UNEP under review.

G. Resolution 68/248. Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

27. In resolution 68/248, on the United Nations regular budget, including the provision of secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources critical to the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP pursuant to paragraph 88 of "The future we want", the General Assembly approved budget appropriations and income estimates for the biennium 2014–2015, as well as the financing of the appropriations for 2014. Specifically, the General Assembly approved appropriations totalling $5,530,349,800, of which $34,963,500 was allocated to UNEP for the implementation of its programme of work and for effective follow-up to the Rio+20 mandates.

III. Resolutions requiring contributions to follow-up actions

A. Resolution 68/70. Oceans and the law of the sea

28. Resolution 68/70, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, was adopted by 115 votes in favour to 1 against, with 2 abstentions. Among other things, the General Assembly called on States to take measures consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The resolution also refers to matters affecting the health of the oceans and marine biodiversity relevant to the UNEP mandate, including marine pollution, marine debris, ocean acidification, climate change and alien invasive species, as well as science and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

29. The General Assembly highlighted actions in the context of efforts in which UNEP takes part under frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the Global Oceans Observing System, the Regular Process and specific activities to address the sources and impacts of marine debris.

30. The resolution also noted the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

B. Resolution 68/71. Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments

31. In resolution 68/71, relevant to the ecosystem management and resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes, the General Assembly agreed on an extensive set of measures in several areas related to achieving sustainable fisheries such as the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly

migratory fish stocks; related fisheries instruments; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; monitoring, control and surveillance, and compliance and enforcement; fishing overcapacity; large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; fisheries by-catch and discard; subregional and regional cooperation; responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem; capacity-building; and cooperation within the United Nations system.

32. In the section on cooperation within the United Nations system, the General Assembly requests relevant actors to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States.

33. The General Assembly also acknowledges the serious environmental impacts on the marine environment caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and encourages States to take action to reduce such gear, noting the recommendations contained in a 2009 report by UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

C. Resolution 68/73. Effects of atomic radiation

34. In resolution 68/73, relevant to the chemicals and waste subprogramme, the General Assembly commended the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for its valuable contribution to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation.

35. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested UNEP to continue and strengthen support for the work of the Committee and the dissemination of its findings to the Assembly, the scientific community and the public. It also encouraged UNEP to continue to strengthen the funding of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 67/112, and in that regard encouraged Member States to make voluntary contributions to the general trust fund established by the Executive Director to support the work of the Committee.

D. Resolution 68/89. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

36. Adopted by a vote of 128 in favour, with 55 abstentions, and relevant to UNEP regional and inter-regional activities, in resolution 68/89 the General Assembly requested relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide information on environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts; and the illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the territories and the need to utilize them for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories.

E. Resolution 68/205. World Wildlife Day

37. By resolution 68/205, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly proclaimed 3 March, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day.

38. Furthermore, the General Assembly invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to observe and raise awareness of World Wildlife Day. More specifically, the Assembly requested the CITES secretariat, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate the implementation of World Wildlife Day.

F. Resolution 68/206. Oil slick on Lebanese shores

39. Resolution 68/206, relevant to the disasters and conflicts subprogramme, was adopted by a vote of 169 in favour to 6 against, with 4 abstentions. In the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to urge United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to undertake a further study – building on the initial work of the World Bank presented through the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its sixty-second session – with a view to measuring and quantifying the environmental damage sustained by Lebanon and neighbouring countries as a result of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon.

40. The General Assembly also recognized the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick and, as it has in previous resolutions on the matter for consideration at previous sessions, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter at its sixty-ninth session, under the

agenda item "sustainable development". The preparation of previous reports of the Secretary-General on the oil slick pursuant to previous resolutions has traditionally involved UNEP.

G. Resolution 68/207. Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

41. Resolution 68/207 – relevant to the ecosystem management, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogrammes and regional and inter-regional activities – highlighted the efforts of the Governments of Central America in promoting sustainable tourism and identified measures to support them.

42. The General Assembly referred to some of the activities in which UNEP is involved as, among other things, it acknowledged the objectives, efforts and achievements of the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism and recognized opportunities for promoting sustainable tourism activities through the programme on sustainable tourism and its component on ecotourism under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, for which UNEP serves as secretariat.

43. In addition, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, UNEP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote sustainable tourism worldwide.

H. Resolution 68/208. Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea

44. In resolution 68/208, relevant to the disasters and conflicts and chemicals and waste subprogrammes, the General Assembly invited Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to keep under observation the issue of the waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, to continue outreach efforts aimed at assessing and increasing awareness of the environmental effects of such munitions and to cooperate in this area. In addition, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of Member States and relevant regional and international organizations regarding measures to assess and increase awareness of the environmental effects of waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea with a view, among other things, to exploring the consolidation of a database.

I. Resolution 68/211. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

45. In resolution 68/211, relevant to the disasters and conflicts subprogramme, the General Assembly reiterated the importance of continued consideration of disaster risk reduction for the achievement of sustainable development and, among other things, welcomed the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva in May 2013.

46. The General Assembly also decided on some of the preparatory and organizational aspects of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Japan in 2015. Among other things, the Assembly decided that the Conference would result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document and would have as one of its objectives the adoption of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. In addition, the Assembly requested the organizations of the United Nations system to provide support and to contribute actively to the preparatory process and to the Conference, including through inter-agency cooperation.

J. Resolution 68/212. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

47. In resolution 68/212, relevant to the environmental governance and climate change subprogrammes, the General Assembly took note of the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Doha in 2012.

48. The General Assembly also recognized the need to build on the existing political momentum with a view to advancing climate change negotiations and encouraged Member States to approach the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw with a view to achieving an ambitious, substantive and balanced outcome, building on the conclusions contained in the Bali Action Plan and the decisions adopted at Cancun, Mexico, Durban, South Africa and Doha.

49. Furthermore, the Assembly took note of the decision by Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convection applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session.

K. Resolution 68/213. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

50. In resolution 68/213, relevant to the environmental governance and ecosystem management subprogrammes, the General Assembly reiterated its resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008–2018). The Assembly also encouraged giving consideration to the issue of desertification in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

51. The Assembly also took note of the decision to relocate the Global Mechanism from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in Rome, to Bonn, to be co-located with the secretariat of the Convention on Desertification; and invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to consider increasing allocations to the Convention.

L. Resolution 68/214. Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

52. In resolution 68/214, relevant to the environmental governance and ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly adopted several provisions acknowledging efforts to realize the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Among other things, the Assembly noted efforts made by the Convention secretariat and GEF, in conjunction with others, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

53. The General Assembly also expressed appreciation for a joint briefing by UNEP, the World Intellectual Property Organization, UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNCTAD, the secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, including actions to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, held on 30 October 2013, and encouraged similar interactions.

54. In addition, the General Assembly noted the continuing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Desertification Convention and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-Related Conventions, and recognized the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

M. Resolution 68/216. Harmony with Nature

55. In resolution 68/216, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to hold a regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue, at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2014, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to advance discussions on harmony with nature in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

56. In addition, among other things the General Assembly encouraged all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development.

N. Resolution 68/217. Sustainable mountain development

57. In resolution 68/217, relevant to the ecosystem management subprogramme, the General Assembly encouraged various measures and efforts that States and other stakeholders could take in order to ensure sustainable development in mountain areas, including for the well-being of their local populations and the conservation of mountain ecosystems.

58. The General Assembly encouraged all relevant entities of the United Nations system to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of relevant commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and "The future we want". The Assembly indicated that there was a need for further involvement in this area by the United Nations system, in particular on the part of FAO, UNEP, the United Nations University, UNDP, UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund, and by international financial institutions.

O. Resolution 68/238. Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

59. In resolution 67/238, relevant to the environmental governance subprogramme and to regional and inter-regional activities, the General Assembly further defined organizational and preparatory aspects of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014. Specifically, the Assembly decided on matters such as the schedule and scope of meetings of the Conference preparatory committee, the composition of the bureau and the overarching theme of the Conference, "the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships".

60. In addition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide support to the work of the intergovernmental committee process and the Conference and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system.

IV. Other resolutions of potential relevance to the UNEP programme of work

A. Environmental governance subprogramme

61. In resolution 68/36, the most recent version of a resolution adopted annually since 1995 on the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, the General Assembly, among other things, reaffirmed that international disarmament forums should take fully into account relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation. It called upon States to adopt measures to ensure the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security and related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development.

62. By resolution 68/139, on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, the General Assembly urged Member States to attach greater importance to improving the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies. It also requested the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs by, among many other things, developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors while promoting rural women's role in protecting the environment.

63. In its resolution 68/147, on the rights of the child, the General Assembly, among other things, expressed its profound concern that the situation of children in many parts of the world remained critical as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage and natural disasters, among other causes. It also urged all States to establish and strengthen mechanisms for the effective participation of children in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation relating to matters that affected them, such as health, environment, education, social and economic welfare, protection against violence, abuse and exploitation and disaster response.

64. In its resolution 68/149, on the rights of indigenous peoples, the General Assembly, among other things, recognized the value and diversity of the cultures and the forms of social organization of indigenous peoples and their holistic traditional scientific knowledge of their lands, natural resources and environment. It also requested that United Nations entities further enhance their coordination and intensify their efforts to achieve a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to the rights of indigenous peoples through the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership.

65. In its resolution 68/175, on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, approved by a vote of 132 in favour to 52 against, with 6 abstentions, the General Assembly expressed deep concern that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from macroeconomic and other factors such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and a lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in least developed countries and small island developing States, represented a global scenario that was threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and widening the gap between developed and developing countries.

66. In resolution 68/193, on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, the General Assembly, among other things, drew attention to emerging policy issues related to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including environmental crime such as illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. It encouraged Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime in order to ensure that adequate and effective means of international cooperation could be afforded under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the investigation and prosecution of those engaged in illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora. It also strongly encouraged Member States to take appropriate measures, consistent with their domestic legislation and legal frameworks, to strengthen law enforcement and related efforts to combat individuals and groups, including organized criminal groups, operating within their borders, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating international trafficking in wildlife, forest products, including timber, and other forest biological resources harvested in contravention of national laws and relevant international instruments.

67. Resolution 68/198, on information and communication technologies for development, focused on the role and potential of information and communications technologies in fostering sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, as well as addressing challenges in the context of globalization.

68. In resolution 68/229, on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the General Assembly referred to several aspects of such activities and, among other things, recognized the importance of continuing to strengthen and improve the results-focused delivery of operational activities for development in order to maximize their support for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

69. Resolution 68/230, on South-South cooperation, included several requests to entities of the United Nations system that they support South-South and triangular cooperation through various measures. It also included a request to the United Nations development system that it further assess, within the report of the Secretary-General on the subject, progress made in its provision of such support, particularly with regard to the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation. It also included a request that the United Nations development system improve coordination among its agencies in order to enhance its support for South-South and triangular cooperation, that it monitor progress at the global and regional levels and that it continue to evaluate the support that it provides for South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition, the United Nations development system was requested to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects on South-South and triangular cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them to ensure that sustainability was a key component of those projects.

70. In resolution 68/234, entitled "Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners", the General Assembly, among other things, highlighted the important contribution of partnerships to the achievement of development goals; emphasized the vital role played by Governments in promoting responsible business practices; and recognized the importance of giving due consideration to the various contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to the intergovernmental process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda.

71. In resolution 68/239, on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the General Assembly, among other things, welcomed the offer of the Government of Ecuador to host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016; welcomed the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019; and decided to designate 31 October of every year, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day.

B. Ecosystem management subprogramme

72. By its resolution 68/157, on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the General Assembly called on States to ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in a non-discriminatory manner while eliminating inequalities in access. It also recognized the need to give due consideration to the right in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

73. In resolution 68/177, on the right to food, the General Assembly recognized that the complex character of the global food crisis was a combination of the global financial and economic crises, environmental degradation, desertification and the impacts of global climate change, as well as natural disasters and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact. It also expressed its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which had resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries. It stressed the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution both to the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock, and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs.

74. In resolution 68/209, on agricultural technology for development, which was adopted by a vote of 144 in favour to 1 against, with 34 abstentions, the General Assembly recognized the overall importance of agricultural technologies in the context of sustainable development and, among other things, urged Member States, United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the development of sustainable agricultural technologies and their transfer and dissemination and to support national efforts to foster utilization of local know-how and agricultural technologies, promote agricultural technology research and access to knowledge and information, increase sustainable agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and enhance food and nutritional security.

75. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions 68/221, 68/231 and 68/232, by which it declared, respectively, 2015 the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, 2016 the International Year of Pulses, 5 December World Soil Day and 2015 the International Year of Soils.

C. Climate change subprogramme

76. In resolution 68/141, on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the General Assembly, among many other things, expressed its concern about the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provided to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in least developed countries, and urged the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work.

77. In resolution 68/220, on science, technology and innovation for development, the General Assembly recognized the role and potential of science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges such as efforts to eradicate poverty, improve energy security, protect the environment and fight climate change. Among other things, the Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging the engagement of the private sector to support developing countries, including through voluntary partnerships and mechanisms such as the Climate Technology Centre and Network of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

D. Disasters and conflicts subprogramme

78. In resolution 68/46, on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, the General Assembly, among other things, encouraged Member States and others to take into account the report of its Open-ended Working Group and the proposals contained therein in the discussions in other forums on humanitarian, health, human rights, environmental and development affairs. The text was adopted by a vote of 158 in favour to 4 against, with 20 abstentions.

79. In its resolution 68/143, on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, the General Assembly, among many other things, called upon the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum and by internally displaced persons, where appropriate.

80. In its resolution 68/180, on protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, the General Assembly, among many other things, recognized the adverse effects of climate change as a contributor to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which in turn might contribute to human displacement.

81. In resolution 68/235, entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources", which was adopted by a vote of 168 in favour to 6 against, with 9 abstentions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources. The Assembly also demanded that Israel cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of those natural resources and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution, including with regard to the cumulative impact of the exploitation, damage and depletion of the natural resources.

E. Chemicals and waste subprogramme

82. In resolution 68/53, on the prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes, the General Assembly called upon all States to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States and expressed the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste would enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories.

83. In resolution 68/218, on the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia, the General Assembly called upon the international community to assist the States of Central Asia in resolving the problems of uranium tailings ponds and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in areas such as legislative frameworks, the management and maintenance of toxic tailings, remediation of tailings ponds and safety-monitoring, public awareness, and socioeconomic, health and humanitarian measures.

F. Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production subprogramme

84. In resolution 68/135, on the implementation of the outcome of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Assembly, among other things, recognized the complex character of the continuing food insecurity situation as a combination of several major factors, including environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters and a lack of the necessary technology. The Assembly also expressed concern that the continuing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices, food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as a lack of results in the multilateral trade negotiations, had negative implications for social development.

85. In its resolution 68/158, on the right to development, adopted on by a vote of 158 to 4, with 28 abstentions, the General Assembly, among many other things, expressed deep concern about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development of the further aggravation of the economic and social situation as a result of the ongoing international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which had increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and had adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries.

86. In its resolution 68/160, on enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, the General Assembly urged States to take measures necessary to enhance cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters on the full enjoyment of human rights.

87. In its resolution 68/168, on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights, adopted by a vote of 136 in favour to 55 against, the General Assembly, realizing the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies, called upon Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty was systematically reduced and international development targets were achieved.

88. The General Assembly also adopted resolutions 68/199, 68/201, 68/202 and 68/203, on, respectively, international trade and development; the international financial system and development; external debt sustainability and development; and commodities. All four resolutions dealt with basic macroeconomic policy issues and their impact on development.

G. Regional activities and inter-regional activities

89. In resolution 68/62, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", the General Assembly, among other things, reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at promoting such measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion. It also expressed concern over the negative impact of poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking on the ecosystem, human development and regional security and decided to take steps to develop a regional approach to counter that phenomenon. It was adopted on 5 December without a vote.

90. In resolution 68/194, on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the General Assembly, among many other things, encouraged the Institute, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to take into account the various planning authorities in the region that focused attention on the coordination of activities that promoted development based on sustainable agricultural production and preservation of the environment in developing its crime prevention strategies.

91. In resolution 68/92, on the question of New Caledonia, the General Assembly, among other things, noted both the continuing concerns of the Kanak people regarding the impact of mining on the environment as well as positive initiatives such as the "Zonéco" operation, designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of the Territory.

92. In resolution 68/93, on the question of French Polynesia, the General Assembly recognized the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a 30-year period. It also requested the Secretary-General to compile a report on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the testing.

93. In resolution 68/94, on the question of Tokelau, the General Assembly acknowledged New Zealand's consistent commitment to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, notably through the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project. It also noted the island's desire to gain access to resources from international organizations such as GEF.

94. In resolution 68/95, on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, the General Assembly, among other things, reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Powers of the Territories to promote the Territories' economic and social development and requested both the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect the environments of the Territories.

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/3/Add.1

Distr.: General
9 June 2014

English only

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Results of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/226

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note provides information on follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/226. It outlines the measures taken and progress achieved by the United Nations Environment Programme as a non-resident organization of the United Nations system in implementing the management process for the implementation of the resolution.

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

K1401179 180614

1. General Assembly resolution 67/226, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, emphasized the importance attached by Member States to enhanced system-wide coherence as a strategy for improving the effectiveness of the United Nations development system as a whole.

2. In line with the main thrust of the resolution, at the heart of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 are objectives of greater efficiency, greater transparency and the enhanced use of performance information for improved management decision-making. In setting out the programmes of work for the bienniums 2014–2015 and 2016–2017, UNEP took into account the quadrennial review recommendations for improving United Nations effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact on development in developing countries. UNEP is paying particular attention to ways in which it can leverage further impact through development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system, including by increasing its participation in United Nations country teams. Capacity-building and the facilitation of technology development and sharing in countries underpins the delivery of all UNEP support to countries, in line with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

3. The quadrennial review and resolution 67/226 set new standards for assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of United Nations operational development activities. Key features of the resolution include:

(a) Some 178 mandates requiring action by various actors;

(b) Some 143 mandates addressed to United Nations system entities, including 22 to the Secretary-General; 4 to United Nations resident coordinators and country teams; and 9 to the Economic and Social Council, the executive boards of funds and programmes and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies;

(c) Some 42 actions that are time-specific, 29 that require reporting and 20 that involve the development of policies and processes.

4. With the resolution, the General Assembly has formulated a strategic direction for the United Nations development system that includes what needs to be achieved and how United Nations entities will need to function in order successfully to support programme countries in a changing development landscape.

5. There is also a strong intergovernmental recognition of the United Nations "Delivering as one" model, although it remains a voluntary nationally-led option. As at March 2014, 37 countries had formally requested the United Nations to adopt the "Delivering as one" approach to their development assistance. From 2007 until the end of 2013, UNEP supported the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability into 96 United Nations development assistance frameworks. For the 2014–2016 programming cycle, over 100 development assistance frameworks will be prepared. Throughout its programmes of work, UNEP articulates its planned engagement in operational activities for development in each of the subprogrammes.

6. In the resolution, the General Assembly requested the funds and programmes of the United Nations to implement decisions in a number of areas through time-bound actions, requiring United Nations entities and inter-agency mechanisms to ensure timely and full implementation. Several key steps have already been taken to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and impact of United Nations operational activities in the area of development.

7. At the intergovernmental level, in resolution 68/1 the General Assembly agreed upon far-reaching measures to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, including, among other means, by changing the timing of its operational activities for development segment within the Council cycle. Those measures aim to enable the Council to provide better overall coordination and guidance to operational development funds and programmes on a system-wide basis, including with regard to objectives, priorities and strategies in the implementation of the policies formulated by the Assembly. The UNEP Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, addressed the Economic and Social Council operational activities for development segment in February 2014.

8. In response to the request of the Council in its resolution 2013/5, a new single coherent quadrennial review monitoring and reporting framework has been developed by the Department of Economic and

Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Group and other United Nations entities, with full ownership by the United Nations development system. The framework contains a set of 99 results-oriented indicators that respond to the General Assembly's request for actions, including those with detailed timelines. It has direct linkages to the new strategic plans of the funds and programmes, which have been aligned with the quadrennial review.

9. Resolution 67/226 provides clear and constructive guidance to the United Nations system on the need to increase its efficiency, transparency and cost effectiveness. Overall, the resolution includes the following key messages:

(a) System-wide coherence should be enhanced, and the "Delivering as one" approach was formally recognized;

(b) It is important to increase the efficiency of United Nations operational activities for development;

(c) Trends in the core/non-core funding imbalance are not sustainable;

(d) The accountability of the United Nations development system to Member States regarding results and impacts requires strengthening;

(e) Sustainable development should be mainstreamed into United Nations development operations;

(f) Normative and operational linkages in the United Nations development system need to be strengthened.

10. The United Nations Development Group has developed a common action plan for the implementation and monitoring of resolution 67/226. While all quadrennial review mandates will be addressed by the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations, as appropriate, the United Nations Development Group action plan endeavours to prioritize those mandates for collective action by the Group. The action plan focuses on 28 main priority areas. UNEP contributes to the action plan though its participation in global, regional and national inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

11. The following table, which is based on a matrix prepared by the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, lists some of the operative paragraphs of resolution 67/226 in response to which specific follow-up might be considered.

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
163	Governing bodies of specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations entities	Review and discuss the provisions in subsection IV E of the resolution (Simplification and harmonization of business practices) with a view to promoting their implementation by the respective entities and improving harmonization with funds and programmes	2013
169	Governing bodies of specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations entities	Engage in a focused dialogue on how to balance most effectively the need for reporting on system-wide results at all levels with current agency-specific reporting requirements	2013
183	Governing bodies of United Nations funds and programmes	Take appropriate actions for the full implementation of resolution 67/226	From 2013 onward
15	United Nations system	Improve management of facilities and operations by taking into account sustainable development practices	From 2013 onward
21	United Nations system	Work consistently across United Nations entities by enhancing system-wide coordination within programme countries and between the national, regional and global levels	From 2013 onward
42	United Nations system	Consolidate all available and projected financial contributions for operational activities for development of the United Nations System at the country level within a common budgetary framework	From 2013 onward

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
58	United Nations system	Strengthen normative and operational linkages with a view to promoting sustainable development outcomes	From 2013 onward
58	United Nations system	Support programme countries in building national capacity for inclusive, equitable, participatory, transparent and accountable national development processes	From 2013 onward
65	United Nations system	Support the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies to programme countries	From 2013 onward
74	United Nations system	Mainstream support for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into regular country-level programming of United Nations operational activities for development and strengthen support mechanisms at the global and regional levels	From 2013 onward
99	United Nations system	Further strengthen the coordination role of the resident coordinator humanitarian coordinator	From 2013 onward
105	United Nations system	Strengthen coordination with Bretton Woods institutions	From 2013 onward
14	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other relevant entities	Enhance mainstreaming of sustainable development into the mandates, programmes, strategies and decision-making processes of funds, programmes and specialized agencies	From 2013 onward
35	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Adopt concrete measure to improve the donor base	Reporting at first regular session in 2014
36	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Improve communications to general public on mandates and development results, recognizing the significant core contributions of Governments to the resources of those organizations, and provide information on efforts made in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council	From 2013 onward
37	United Nations funds and programmes	Actively engage with Bretton Woods institutions with a view to diversifying potential sources of funding, especially core funding	From 2013 onward
39	United Nations funds and programmes	Define common principles and present specific proposals for the concept of "critical mass" of core resources and present specific proposal to governing bodies for decision	Analysis completed by end 2013 with decision-making in 2014
42	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Provide the necessary information on contributions to the resident coordinators upon agreement with programme countries	From 2013 onward
47	United Nations funds and programmes	Harmonize cost classification methodology in particular with regard to classification of costs relating to programme and non-programme activities	From 2013 onward
48	United Nations funds and programmes	Ensure that the guiding principle governing the financing of all non-programme costs is full cost recovery, proportionately from core and non-core funding resources	From 2013 onward
54	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Include estimated cost recovery amounts in budgets and report on actual amounts recovered as part of regular financial reporting	From 2013 onward
56	United Nations funds and programmes	Pursue reductions in management costs in order to minimize the necessary cost recovery rate for non-core-funded	From 2013 onward

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
		activities	
64	United Nations Organizations	Adopt measures to ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities and use and strengthen to the fullest extent possible national execution/implementation and available national expertise and technologies and avoid wherever possible the establishment of parallel implementation units outside of national institutions	From 2013 onward
79	Heads of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the regional commissions	Pay special attention to implementation of South-south cooperation projects managed or supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation	From 2013 onward
108	United Nations Organizations	Integrate disaster risk reduction into activities, including measures aimed at restoring and improving services and infrastructure	From 2013 onward
110	United Nations entities and other relevant partners	Give due consideration to prevention, preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities by supporting national and local efforts in that regard	From 2013 onward
119	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Consult, inform and discuss with governing bodies progress achieved in simplifying and harmonizing agency-specific programming instruments and processes and United Nations development assistance frameworks at the country level	In 2013
121	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Carry out the changes required to align the planning and budgeting cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review	From 2013 onward
130 (c)	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Implement paragraph 37 (c) of resolution 50/120, requesting that the resident coordinators provide formal input to the regular performance appraisals of all entity representatives who are members of country teams on their contributions to their effective and efficient functioning based on a mutual appraisal between the resident coordinators and the members of the country teams in the performance assessment process	From 2013 onward
135	Member States and United Nations funds and programmes (as appropriate)	Contribute financially to pooled funding mechanisms intended to advance "Delivering as one" with a view to ensuring the extension of those mechanisms	From 2013 onward
146	United Nations regional commissions, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities at the regional level	Further strengthen cooperation and coordination among themselves and with their respective headquarters and, where appropriate, include funds, programmes and specialized agencies that are not represented at the regional level	From 2013 onward
153	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Further invest in intra-agency rationalization of business operations	In 2013
154	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Develop and conclude inter-agency framework agreements regarding the provision of support services at the country level and delegate the authority to country teams to establish and manage common services and long-term agreements with third parties through standardized inter-agency agreements without the need for further approvals	In 2013
160	United Nations funds and programmes	Achieve full interoperability of enterprise resources planning systems with the objective of harmonizing business processes and practices	By 2016

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
174	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Develop evaluation plans that are aligned with new strategic plans and are an integrated part of monitoring systems	From 2013 onward
178	United Nations entities engaged in system-wide evaluation (the Joint Inspection Unit, the United Nations Evaluation Group, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	Enhance coordination and the exchange of experience in the area of system-wide evaluation of United Nations operational activities for development	From 2013 onward
182	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Intensify the use and evaluation of United Nations development assistance frameworks and the evaluation of United Nations system-wide contributions to national development results	From 2013 onward
183	Executive heads of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of resolution 67/226, including appropriate recommendations	From 2013 onward

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/4

Distr.: General
16 May 2014

English only

United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Items 5 and 6 of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Note by the Executive Director

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Governing Council decision 19/32, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives adopted since the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum are available from www.unep.org/unea/official_docs.asp.

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

K1401011 230514

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/5*

Distr.: General
16 May 2014

English only

United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Agenda item 7

Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters

Status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding of the United Nations Environment Programme

Report of the Executive Director**

The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Governing Council decision 27/13, provides information on the financial status of the Environment Fund and other sources of funding for the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2012–2013.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 23 June 2014.

** Issued without formal editing.

K1401428 230614

I. Overview

1. This report is intended to provide members of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with succinct overview of the financial position of the organization. During this reporting period the member states approved the landmark document entitled "The future we want" at the Rio +20 conference which provided for the strengthening and upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including by establishing universal membership in its Governing Council. It also provided for UNEP to have "secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate."

2. In addition to governance decisions, the UNEP universal membership session also approved the medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 and a revised programme of work for the biennium 2014–2015, approving appropriations for the Environment Fund amounting to $245 million. The UNEA session noted that the allocation of the United Nations regular budget to UNEP would be approved by the GA at its 68th session. Subsequently the GA on December 27th approved the allocation of the United Nations regular budget to UNEP amounting to $34.9 million for 2014-2015.

3. The financial statements of UNEP for the biennium 2012-2013 show a prudently and effectively managed organization, following the aftermath of a global financial crisis when many member states enacted comprehensive austerity measures. UNEP received income of $152.2 million for the Environment Fund, in addition to balance carried forward of $13.3 million from biennium 2010-2011, thus total resources available amounted to $165.5 million, which represents 87% of the approved budget of $19 million.

4. In spite of challenging fiscal situations, Member States have overwhelmingly continued to support UNEP in particular through trust fund and earmarked contributions towards UNEP Programme of Work activities. Contributions to this category amounted to $392 million which remarkably exceeded the budgeted amount of $242 million by $150 million or 62%. These funds are often specific and targeted to certain projects; this in some cases creates an imbalance in the resource distribution among the sub-programmes as compared to the approved Programme of Work.

5. For the biennium 2012–2013, the total revised appropriations from the regular budget are $18.4 million that amount includes $1.5 million for UNSCEAR and $3.1 million from United Nations Development Account. The amount is allocated to UNEP headquarters and the UNEP offices in New York and Geneva. Table 6 below shows that 2012-2013 expenditures amounted to US$ 16.7 million. Unspent appropriations were mainly against the Development Account

6. For both the Environment Fund and extrabudgetary resources, the UNEP delivery rate is in line with the available resources or the approved budget where full funding has been provided. Prudent financial management was paramount in the context of aftermath of the global financial crisis. UNEP therefore had to focus simultaneously on delivering the Programme of Work for 2012-2013 while carrying out austerity measures and exercising careful fund management and management oversight. While UNEP has seen a temporary decrease in terms of Environment Fund contributions nonetheless the associated expenditures have been managed to be in line with available resources. Certain critical costs such as the staffing costs of the Environment Fund have decreased by $6 million or 5% from the last biennium ($113 million in 2012-2013 as compared to $119 million in 2010-2011)

7. Early in 2012 the external auditors brought the attention of UNEP to its exposure to substantial exchange loss risk as a result of the large amounts of Euro's held on behalf of UNEP by the United Nations Treasurer. The unrealized exchange loss stood at $13.3 million at the beginning of the biennium and the actual amount of Euros held in UNEP accounts was valued at $187 million (USD). Through effective management and consultation with the United Nations Controllers office, UNEP decreased its Euro holding which is currently valued at $7.6 million (USD) as of December 2013. The associated exchange rate risk related the Euro vs. the USD for UNEP posed a great financial risk which by May 2012 at was valued at an unrealized loss of over $20 million. Over a period of several months UNEP reduced the Euro exchange loss exposure and has kept only the amount needed for operational needs. Management has also put in place policies to ensure that the amount of Euros held by UNEP is within tolerant risk levels and in compliance with FAFA requirements.

8. During this reporting period UNEP also planned and prepared for two major administrative reforms that are due to take effect in 2014 namely: the transition from United Nations System Accounting Standards(UNSAS) to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and the introduction of Umoja,, which is the United Nations new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system). The implementation of IPSAS is a significant achievement for UNEP and raises further the standard of financial reporting. Financial reporting is a critical element of governance and of sound management, both of which are central parts of the United Nations Reforms. The main benefits of IPSAS are

increased transparency which provides a better understanding of the UNEP financial performance, greater accountability to make informed decisions about resource utilization, and improved financial information to support governance, management of assets, and decision-making. Also critical to the administrative reforms is the Umoja system. Umoja will be the United Nations' new central administrative system, replacing multiple and fragmented legacy systems such as IMIS, Mercury and Sun.

9. In preparation for these two administrative reforms UNEP has worked diligently to clean up its books with the closure of over 750 inactive IMIS projects and conducted many awareness and training sessions on IPSAS. In addition UNEP implemented during the latter half of the 2012-2013 biennium more rigorous criteria for the recognition and booking of obligation that are related to future year projects following de facto IPSAS guidelines and this has resulted in lower expenditures than in previous biennium which strictly followed UNSAS.

10. UNEP PSC charges are expressed as a percentage of direct costs. The purpose of the PSC charge is to recover incremental indirect costs. Incremental costs are defined as the additional costs incurred supporting activities financed from extra-budgetary contributions. This charge is intended to ensure that the additional cost of supporting activities financed from extra-budgetary contributions is not borne by other core resources of UNEP. UNEP has implemented cost recovery measures that are in line with the guidance given in ST/SGB/188 and while at the same confining costs charges to be in line with administrative services provide. The PSC fund (OTA) under UNEP is has a positive fund balance of $12.6 million (including reserve of $4.5 million), this surplus will assist UNEP with the resource requirements needed to implement Umoja at all of UNEP worldwide locations.

II. Funding sources of UNEP programme of work

11. The total approved budget for the UNEP Programme of Work for the biennium 2012-2013 was US$ 479.6 as shown in Table 1. Expenditures recorded in 2012-2013 against all sources of funds amounted to US$ 438.4 million or 91% of the budget.

Table 1
Budget, Income & Expenditure by funding type: Figures in USD millions

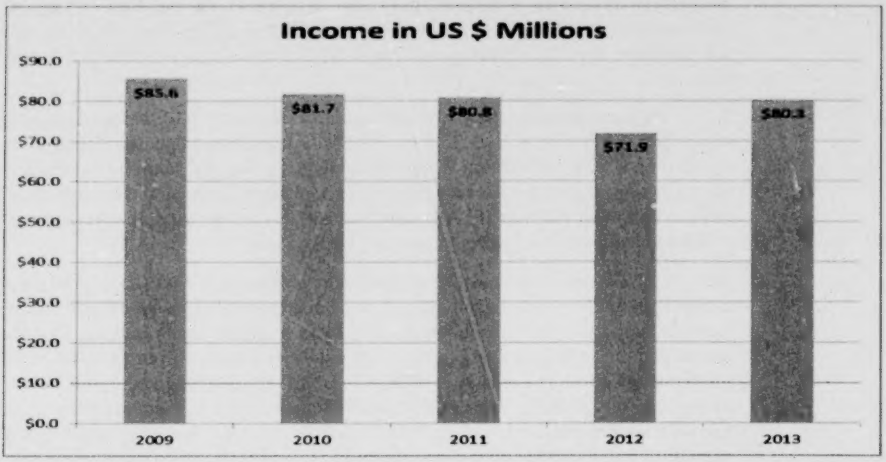
Fund source	Budget	Income	Expenditure	Expenditure to budget (percentage)
Environment fund	191	152	156	82
Trust funds and earmarked contributions	242	392	238	98
Programme support	28	26	27	96
Regular budget	19	18	17	90
Total	480	602	438	91

A. Environment Fund

12. The Governing Council at its 26th session approved appropriations for the Environment Fund a budget of US$191 million with a ceiling of US$ 122.3 million for staff costs. Actual staff-related expenditure during the biennium 2012-2013 amounted to US$ 113 million which was within the approved staff costs ceiling and represents a decrease of $6 million from the 2010-2011 biennium staff costs.

13. Income from contributions directly supporting the Environment Fund for 2012-2013 amounted to US$ 152.2 million. This was in addition to US$ 13.3 million carried over from the previous biennium. Therefore the total available resources amounted to US$ 165.5 was US$ 25.5 million less than the approved budget of US$ 191 million. The figure below shows the trend of contributions to the Environment Fund from 2009 to 2013.

Contributions to the Environment Fund in 2009-2013 as at 31 December each year (amounts in US$ millions)



14. Taking into account the shortfall of $25.5 million in contributions received during 2012-2013, the Executive Director issued allocations of US$ 158 million of which US$ 137 million was for Environment Fund Programme activities, US$ 15.9 million for the Environment Fund Biennial Support Budget and US$ 5 million for Fund Programme Reserve. Expenditure in 2012-2013 was US$ 156 million against the US$ 158 million allocation, hence a 98.7% fund utilization rate. Table 2 below shows the approved budget, allocations and expenditures by sub-programmes as at 31 December 2013.

Table 2
Environment Fund
2012-2013 Programme of work budget, allocations and expenditure (amounts in US$ thousands)

	2012-2013 GC Approved budget	2012-2013 Allocation issued	Environment Fund Expenditure	Allotment Utilizations (percentage)
A. Executive direction and management	**9 041**	**7 728**	**7 585**	**98**
Sub Total A	**9 041**	**7 728**	**7 585**	**97**
B. Programme of work				
1. Climate change	30 788	24 786	25 303	**102**
2. Disasters and conflicts	10 454	5 920	6 155	**103**
3. Ecosystem management	36 226	28 130	27 787	**99**
4. Environmental governance	41 622	40 936	39 933	**98**
5. Chemicals and wastes	19 543	17 183	17 328	**101**
6. Resource efficiency	26 867	20 012	19 773	**99**
Subtotal B	**165 500**	**136 967**	**136 279**	**99**
C. Fund programme reserve	**6 365**	**5 030**	**3 951**	**79**
Subtotal B+C	**171 865**	**141 997**	**140 230**	**99**
D. Programme management and support	10 055	8 188	8 051	**98**
Subtotal D	**10 055**	**8 188**	**8 051**	**98**
Grand Total (A+B+C+D)	**190 961**	**157 913**	**155 866**	**99**

B. Trust funds and earmarked contributions

15. There are 124 active trust and earmarked funds, including 70 that directly support the UNEP programme of work, 47 that support UNEP-administered conventions, protocols and regional seas programmes and 7 that belong to a category known as "special trust funds", including the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

16. Resources available for the biennium 2012–2013 from trust and earmarked funds directly supporting the UNEP programme of work total $529.6 million, of which $137.7 million was the balance brought forward from the prior biennium, and $392 million in income received during 2012-2013, including contributions from the European Commission under ENRTP.

17. Expenditures in the 2012–2013 biennium amounted to $227.5 million. The balance of $302 million as at 31 December 2013 was carried forward to the 2014–2015 biennium. Table 3 below shows budget, allotments and expenditures as at 31 December 2013.

Table 3
Trust funds and earmarked expenditures as at 31 December 2013 (amounts in US$ thousands)

Sub-programmes	2012-2013 GC approved budget	2012-2013 Allocation issued	Fund expenditure	Allotment utilizations (percentage)
1. Climate change	50 838	102 786	66 297	65
2. Disasters and conflicts	39 233	25 846	23 006	89
3. Ecosystem management	28 326	54 312	37 429	69
4. Environmental governance	39 077	72 213	50 182	69
5. Chemicals and wastes	39 960	39 156	27 606	70
6. Resource efficiency	44 452	55 366	33 589	61
Management and administration	212	1 587	806	51
Adjustments*			(11 400)	
Grand total	242 098	351 267	227 514	

* This relates to IPSAS cleanup and other adjustments.

C. Support account for trust funds and earmarked contributions

18. The Programme Support Account income is generated from the administrative overhead charged to trust funds and earmarked contributions based on their actual expenditures, in accordance with the United Nations Regulations and Rules. The rationale behind this provision is to ensure that activities financed through extra-budgetary resources (i.e. Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions) do not create any additional burden to the United Nations Regular Budget, or in the case of UNEP, the Environment Fund budget which is UNEP's core budget. For UNEP administered conventions, 67% of the Programme Support Account for Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions resources are allocated towards their Secretariats for the provision of fund management and administrative services. The balance of the Programme Support Account budget covers the administrative costs of managing Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions incurred by UNEP and UNON.

19. Table 4 below shows total income from programme support resources for the biennium 2012-2013 was US$ 28.2 million. Expenditure to 31 December 2013 was US$ 26.9 million against an allotment of US$ 28.8 million an expenditure rate 93% of the allotment.

Table 4

Programme Support Resources as at 31 December 2013 (amounts in US$ thousands)

Sub-programme	2012-2013 GC Approved budget	2012-2013 Allocation issued	Expenditures	Allotment utilizations (percentage)
Programme management and support	28 183	28 894	26 947	93
Total	**28 183**	**28 894**	**26 947**	**93**

D. Regular budget

20. The Regular Budget of the United Nations provides support to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in line with the General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). When it established UNEP, the Assembly decided that "the costs of servicing the Governing Council and providing the small secretariat… shall be borne by the Regular Budget of the United Nations".

21. For the biennium 2012–2013, the total revised appropriations from the regular budget were $18.4 million that amount includes $1.5 million for UNSCEAR and $3.1 million from United Nations Development Account. The amount was allocated to UNEP headquarters and the UNEP offices in New York and Geneva. Table 5 below shows that 2012-2013 expenditures amounted to US$ 16.7 million

Table 5

Regular Budget 2012–2013 appropriations, allocations and projected expenditures as at 31 December2013

Subprogrammes	2012-2013 GC approved budget*	2012-2013 allocation issued	Regular budget expenditure	Allotment utilizations (percentage)
Executive direction, policy making bodies and UNSCEAR	5 275	5 275	5 234	99
Climate change	1 784.0	1 784.0	1 713	96
Disasters and conflicts	564.4	564.4	593	105
Ecosystem management	3 164.0	3 164.0	2 455	78
Environmental governance	4 980.0	4 980.0	4 298	86
Chemicals and wastes	387.4	387.4	376	97
Resource efficiency	782.4	782.4	589	75
Programme support	1 463.0	1 463.0	1 435	98
Grand total	18 400	18 400	16 694	91

*The budget includes US$ 3.1 million from United Nations Development Account

E. Trust Funds and Earmarked contribution in Support of Conventions, Regional Seas and Special Accounts which are not included in the UNEP Programme of Work

22. Table 6 below shows the breakdown of projected resources for UNEP administered Conventions, Regional Seas and Special Accounts. They include the MEAs, the Multilateral Fund and funds supporting the Global Environment Facility. They are accounted for within UNEP financial statements but are outside of the UNEP Programme of Work

Table 6

Trust Funds and Earmarked contribution in Support of Conventions, Regional Seas and Special Accounts – flow and use of resources for 2012-2013 as at 31 December 2013 (amounts in US$ thousands)

Categories	*Opening balances as at 01 January 2012*	*2012-2013 income*	*Expenditure and adjustments*	*Balances as at 31 December 2013*
Trust funds and earmarked contributions for conventions and regional seas	85 422	253 840	204 741	134 521
Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol	362 727	266 211	306 369	322 569
Global Environment Facility funds	41 786	126 935	132 940	35 781
Total	**489 935**	**646 986**	**644 050**	**492 871**

Annex I

2012-2013 Income to UNEP Environment Fund (amounts in US$)

	Country	2012 pledges	2012 paid	2013 pledges	2013 paid	2012-2013 Unpaid
1	Afghanistan	1 225	1 225	1 000	1 000	–
2	Algeria	–	–	10 000	10 000	–
3	Andorra	39 474	39 474	39 291	39 291	–
4	Angola	2 400	2 400	1 200	1 200	–
5	Argentina	70 000	70 000	50 000	50 000	–
6	Armenia	2 500	2 500	2 500	2 500	–
7	Australia	1 201 645	1 201 645	1 124 007	1 124 007	–
8	Austria	523 520	523 520	536 800	536 800	–
9	Bahamas	–	–	3 500	3 500	–
10	Bangladesh	653	653	653	653	–
11	Barbados	2 500	2 500	2 500	2 500	–
12	Belarus	16 000	16 000	16 000	16 000	–
13	Belgium	–	–	5 929 105	5 929 105	–
14	Belize	950	950	950	950	–
15	Bhutan	1 450	1 450	–	–	–
16	Bosnia Herzegovina	12 000	12 000	–	–	–
17	Botswana	–	–	7 000	7 000	–
18	Bulgaria	17 000	17 000	17 000	17 000	–
19	Burkina Faso	5 646	5 646	–	–	–
20	Cambodia	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	–
21	Cameroon	22 573	22 573	9 948	9 948	–
22	Canada	3 000 000	3 000 000	2 968 780	2 968 780	–
23	Cape Verde	–	–	3 073	3 073	–
24	Chile	–	–	20 000	20 000	–
25	China	500 000	500 000	500 000	500 000	–
26	Colombia	50 000	50 000	22 971	22 971	–
27	Congo	–	–	2 000	2 000	–
28	Costa Rica	3 243	3 243	7 179	7 179	–
29	Croatia	33 000	33 000	33 000	33 000	–
30	Cyprus	44 000	44 000	44 000	44 000	–
31	Czech Republic	49 845	49 845	59 377	59 377	–
32	Denmark	4 371 852	4 371 852	4 602 187	4 602 187	–
33	Ecuador	7 600	7 600	4 500	4 500	–
34	Egypt	25 000	25 000	25 000	25 000	–
35	Estonia	–	–	26 302	26 302	–
36	Ethiopia	1 600	1 600	–	–	–

	Country	2012 pledges	2012 paid	2013 pledges	2013 paid	2012-2013 Unpaid
37	Fiji	4 481	4 481	–	–	–
38	Finland	4 402 886	4 402 886	4 364 240	4 364 240	–
39	France	5 850 000	5 850 000	5 850 000	5 850 000	–
40	Gambia	1 000	1 000	–	–	–
41	Georgia	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	–
42	Germany	9 696 293	9 696 293	9 889 998	9 889 998	–
43	Greece	–	–	250 000	250 000	–
44	Guatemala	–	–	5 823	5 823	–
45	Guyana	1 005	1 005	995	995	–
46	Honduras	–	–	1 140	1 140	–
47	Hungary	10 000	10 000	9 975	9 975	–
48	Iceland	38 000	38 000	–	–	–
49	India	100 000	50 000	100 000	–	150 000
50	Indonesia	59 000	59 000	–	–	–
51	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	–	–	60 908	60 908	–
52	Iraq	6 500	6 500	3 800	3 800	–
53	Ireland	470 000	470 000	470 000	470 000	–
54	Israel	20 000	20 000	140 000	140 000	–
55	Japan	2 779 194	2 779 194	2 779 194	2 779 194	
56	Jordan	–	–	5 000	5 000	–
57	Kazakhstan	22 975	22 975	31 950	31 950	–
58	Kenya	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	–
59	Kuwait	200 000	200 000	200 000	–	200 000
60	Kyrgyzstan	950	950	950	950	–
61	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2 000	2 000	–	–	–
62	Lebanon	–	–	7 000	7 000	–
63	Lesotho	10 228	10 228	–	–	–
64	Liechtenstein	9 000	9 000	9 000	9 000	–
65	Lithuania	23 000	23 000	23 000	23 000	–
66	Luxembourg	660 313	660 313	638 570	638 570	–
67	Madagascar	999	999	–	–	–
68	Malaysia	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	–
69	Maldives	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	–
70	Mauritius	12 998	12 998	5 000	5 000	–
71	Mexico	350 000	350 000	350 000	350 000	–
72	Micronesia (Federated States of)	760	760	–	–	–
73	Moldova	950	950	950	950	–

	Country	2012 pledges	2012 paid	2013 pledges	2013 paid	2012-2013 Unpaid
74	Monaco	26 437	26 437	26 152	26 152	–
75	Mongolia	8 938	8 938	–	–	–
76	Morocco	15 621	15 621	16 000	–	16 000
77	Namibia	1 750	1 750	–	–	–
78	Netherlands	10 017 600	10 017 600	10 248 000	10 248 000	–
79	New Zealand	–	–	260 000	260 000	–
80	Nicaragua	1 000	1 000	1 706	1 706	–
81	Norway	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	3 000 000	–
82	Oman	–	–	28 000	28 000	–
83	Pakistan	10 964	10 964	10 949	10 949	–
84	Panama	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	–
85	Papua New Guinea	1 000	1 000	–	–	–
86	Peru	19 000	19 000	10 000	10 000	–
87	Philippines	19 000	19 000	19 000	19 000	–
88	Poland	150 000	150 000	150 000	150 000	–
89	Portugal	50 000	50 000	50 000	–	50 000
90	Republic of Korea	307 931	307 931	391 719	391 719	–
91	Romania	95 000	95 000	–	–	–
92	Russian Federation	900 000	900 000	1 500 000	1 500 000	–
93	Rwanda	950	950	–	–	–
94	Samoa	–	–	793	793	–
95	Saudi Arabia	–	–	133 005	133 005	–
96	Serbia	17 000	17 000	17 000	17 000	–
97	Seychelles	1 200	1 200	–	–	–
98	Sierra Leone	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	–
99	Singapore	50 000	50 000	50 000	50 000	–
100	Slovakia	55 000	55 000	55 000	55 000	–
101	Slovenia	–	–	98 000	98 000	–
102	South Africa	63 000	63 000	63 000	63 000	–
103	Spain	456 225	456 225	152 650	152 650	–
104	Sri Lanka	5 100	5 100	5 100	–	5 100
105	St Kitts & Nevis	475	475	475	475	–
106	St Lucia	–	–	931	931	–
107	Suriname	1 000	–	–	–	1 000
108	Sweden	4 882 142	4 882 142	4 793 101	4 793 101	–
109	Switzerland	4 358 546	4 358 546	4 661 023	4 661 023	–
110	Thailand	24 487	24 487	25 000	25 000	–
111	Timor-Leste	950	950	950	950	–
112	Trinidad and Tobago	13 000	13 000	13 000	–	13 000

	Country	2012 pledges	2012 paid	2013 pledges	2013 paid	2012-2013 Unpaid
113	Turkey	425 000	425 000	425 000	425 000	–
114	Uganda	12 669	12 669	–	–	–
115	United Arab Emirates	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	–
116	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5 707 440	5 707 440	5 571 360	5 571 360	–
117	United States of America	6 587 000	6 587 000	6 247 000	6 247 000	–
118	Vietnam	7 500	7 500	–	–	–
119	Zambia	2 000	2 000	4 413	4 413	–
120	Zimbabwe	1 000	1 000	–	–	–
	Misc Income	252 219	252 219	352 357	352 357	–
	Grand Total	**72 414 355**	**72 363355**	**79 775 999**	**79 391 899**	**435 100**

Annex II

Top 15 donors for 2012-2013

	Country	2012 pledges		Country	2013 pledges
1	Netherlands	10 017 600		Netherlands	10 248 000
2	Germany	9 696 293		Germany	9 889 998
3	United States of America	6 587 000		United States of America	6 247 000
4	France	5 850 000		France	5 850 000
5	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5 707 440		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5 571 360
6	Sweden	4 882 142		Sweden	4 793 081
7	Finland	4 395 180		Switzerland	4 661 023
8	Denmark	4 371 852		Denmark	4 602 187
9	Switzerland	4 358 546		Finland	4 364 240
10	Canada	3 000 000		Norway	3 000 000
11	Norway	3 000 000		Canada	2 968 780
12	Japan	2 779 194		Belgium	5 929 105
13	Australia	1 201 645		Japan	2 779 194
14	Russian Federation	900 000		Russian Federation*	1 500 000
15	Luxembourg	660 313		Australia	1 124 007
	Total contribution by top 15	**67 407 205**		**Total contribution by top 15**	**73 527 974**

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/6

Distr.: General
16 May 2014

English only

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters

Programme performance report

Note by the secretariat

In paragraph 14 of its decision 27/13, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue to report to the governing body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its regular and special sessions on the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its relevant expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund. Accordingly, the programme performance report 2012–2013 is available from www.unep.org/pdf/PPR_REPORT-FINAL-APR2014-singles.pdf. The report has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

K1401007 230514

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/7

Distr.: General
16 May 2014

English only

United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Policy issues

Statements and recommendations by major groups and stakeholders to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session

Note by the secretariat

I. Background

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regional consultation meetings with major groups and stakeholders are held every year in preparation for the annual sessions of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP. The outcome of the regional consultation meetings usually takes the form of a statement or key messages and recommendations to the governing body of UNEP, forwarded to member States six weeks before the session of the governing body as an information document.

2. The regional consultation meetings held in 2013 served as a platform for engaging major groups and stakeholders from the regions in addressing the main areas and topics for discussion by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session, to be held in June 2014.

3. The outcome of the regional consultation meetings will feed into the fifteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

II. Topics for discussion

4. The regional consultation meetings addressed the following key issues:

(a) United Nations Environment Assembly;

(b) Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, the role of UNEP in the post-2015 development agenda and integrating environmental sustainability into that agenda;

(c) Stakeholder engagement and access to information: new mechanisms for the engagement of major groups and stakeholders in UNEP, including the Environment Assembly, strengthening the participation of civil society organizations and stakeholders by adopting a

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

stakeholder engagement policy, and the application of the Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines);

(d) The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns; and

(e) Regional priorities.

5. The dates and venues of the regional consultation meetings are set out in table 1.

Table 1
Dates and venues of the regional consultation meetings

Region	*Meeting dates and venues*
Africa	12–15 October 2013, Gaborone
Europe	4 and 5 November 2013, Istanbul, Turkey
Western Asia	26 and 27 November 2013, Amman
Asia and the Pacific	17 and 18 September 2013, Phnom Penh
Latin America and Caribbean	18 and 19 November 2013, Panama City
North America	3 and 4 December 2013, Washington, D.C.

6. A total of 273 participants attended the regional consultation meetings. Table 2 provides an overview of the distribution of participants by major group and by region. Non-governmental organizations were the most represented of the major groups and stakeholders with 53.8 per cent of the total number of participants followed by the "Other' category with 13.2 per cent of the total number.

Table 2
Representation of major groups and stakeholders at the regional consultation meetings

	Type of major group	*Africa*	*Europe*	*Western Asia*	*Asia and the Pacific*	*Latin America and the Caribbean*	*North America*	***Total***	***Percentage***
1	Business and industry	0	0	1	0	2	6	**9**	**3.29**
2	Children and youth	5	2	3	6	2	3	**21**	**7.69**
3	Indigenous people	2	1	0	5	1	1	**10**	**3.66**
4	Local authorities	0	0	0	1	2	0	**3**	**1.09**
5	Non-governmental organizations	33	13	18	51	3	29	**147**	**53.8**
6	Science and technology (including research and academia)	2	3	3	4	3	8	**23**	**8.42**
7	Women	2	11	1	3	2	0	**19**	**6.95**
8	Farmers	0	1	0	1	1	0	**3**	**1.09**
9	Workers and trade unions	0	0	1	0	1	0	**2**	**1.09**
10	Other[a]	24	2	1	5	0	4	**36**	**13.18**
	Total	**68**	**33**	**28**	**76**	**17**	**51**	**273**	**100**

[a] Includes stakeholders such as faith-based groups, the media, foundations, organizations whose mandates cut across several sectors, as well as intergovernmental bodies such as the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

III. Statements and recommendations

7. The annex to the present note contains statements and recommendations from major groups and stakeholders prepared during the regional consultation meetings. The key messages contained in the statements and recommendations reflect areas in which general consensus was reached at the meetings; however, the various groups represented did not necessarily endorse every conclusion. The annex has not been formally edited.

Annex

Outcomes of the regional consultation meetings with major groups and stakeholders[a]

AFRICA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS MEETING WITH MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 15TH UNEP GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-15) AND FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF UNEP (UNEA-1), 12-15 OCTOBER 2013 (GABORONE, BOTSWANA)

CIVIL SOCIETY COMMUNIQUE TO THE FIFTH AMCEN SPECIAL SESSION AND RECOMMENDTIONS TO THE UNEA

We, the representatives of African Civil Society Organizations and Networks under the auspices of Pan African Climate Justice Alliance met in Gaborone, Botswana, on October 12-14, 2013 for the Pre-AMCEN African Civil Society Consultative Workshop, ahead of the 5th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The Workshop also served as the UNEP Regional Consultative Meeting with Major Groups and Stakeholders in the Africa Region (MGSF) in preparation for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and 15th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum scheduled to take place in 2014.

Aware that the IPCC-WG I released in Stockholm, Sweden in September 2013 raised red flag on the rapidly heating earth and the certainty of man's contribution to the growing concentration of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere;

Further aware that the adverse effects of climate change manifested by prolonged droughts, shifting seasons, rising sea water levels, tropical cyclones, land slides, newly emerging environmental refugees, and diseases have compromised Africa's right to development and attainment of national sustainable development and poverty reduction aspirations;

Concerned that the last two decades have been characterised by unfulfilled promises and commitments by developed countries to Africa in particular hence breeding an atmosphere of ever-diminishing trust and confidence in international negotiations processes;

Further concerned of the cruel irony that a people who have lived for so long in harmony with Mother Earth, imprinting the lightest of footprints, now suffer a crisis they contributed the least towards it cause;

Inspired by the need to strengthen our voices as civil society and community groups to contribute to our Governments' Positions on various global standpoints.

Acknowledging the efforts by Africa to speak with one voice during the UNFCCC-COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland

Acknowledging the fact that non-state actors contribution to the UNFCCC process and its outcome is essential for informed policy formulation and monitoring of its implementation at all levels.

Desirous that the One Voice should be that of and be informed by realities of the local communities in the affirmation of the authority of the Civil Society and communities as the expression of the sovereign will of the people;

Appreciating, as a positive step, the COP18 outcome on decision made on promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and related processes;

Recognizing the progress made so far by the Africa Group, African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and African Union through CAHOSOCC to harmonise African climate change response efforts;

[a] Issued without formal editing.

Declares as follows;

1. **Keep Africa safe:**

We support the acceptance of "loss and damage" as a key area of discussion for the new climate agreement. Africa should also continue calling for the blanket of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere to be returned to well below 300ppm CO2eq and warming to be limited to well below 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with the objective of returning to pre-industrial levels in the longer term.

Based on the accounts we have heard from the local communities, women, youth, indigenous groups of the intolerable conditions caused by climate change including a case of a pastoralist who took his life after losing all his cattle to a prolonged drought, and based on the report of IPCC Working Group I 5th assessment, even warming of this level globally risks warming of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius in Africa, dangerous interference with our climate, and loss and damage requiring compensation. A goal of "less than 2 degrees Celsius" is no longer ambitious as accepting it would be condemning Africa to incineration and to no modern development.

2. **Ensure poverty eradication and food Security:**

Climate change poses grave risk to Africa's food security, and to the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers and rural poor communities. African leaders should thus ensure the decisions they support at global level leads to atmospheric concentrations stabilized in a time frame that safeguards food production and ecological systems to adapt naturally, and safeguards jobs and economic development. Agriculture remains one of the crucial sectors affected by climate change and which supports food and livelihoods security of millions around the world especially in developing countries. African governments should therefore put pressure to Parties and SBSTA to conclude the agriculture negotiations under UNFCCC with focus on adaptation and expand the remit to cover sustainable livestock production systems as part of solution to climate change.

3. **Share the atmosphere fairly:**

African people have the inalienable right to achieve sustainable development by making use of a fair share of the Earth's global commons and resources. The carbon budget required to return to well below 300ppm CO2eq should be shared fairly with Africa taking into account the accumulative historical use of these resources by developed countries and the finance and technology transfers made available to developing countries.

4. **Industrialized countries to cut excessive consumption and pollution:**

Comprehensive action to address climate change should constitute drastic emissions cut by industrialized countries at domestic level. The withdrawal of Canada, New Zealand, Russia and Japan from the KP2 and the continued refusal of United States to ratify the Kyoto Protocol are not good signals to the rest of the global community. These countries should accept their historical responsibilities, reconsider their position and recommit without further delay and conditions.

Though science points to the current emissions of some emerging economies exceeding the industrialized countries, we should recognize that current atmospheric concentrations are principally the result of historical emissions of greenhouse gases, the largest share of which originated in developed country Parties. There is an urgent need for emission cuts by having specific target for all Annex I parties to reduce emissions by at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 100% by 2050 below 1990 levels.

5. **Protect and compensate affected communities:**

African leaders should not compromise on their demand that ensures that industrialised countries compensate affected communities and countries for the full costs of avoiding harms, actual harms and damage, and lost opportunities for development resulting from climate change. Any effort to establish adaptation as an obligation and not a right, or to use adaptation as a means to divide or differentiate between developing countries should be resisted. An international mechanism for compensation on the loss and damage caused by extreme weather events related to climate change should thus be established. Though the Green Climate Fund has been established, many observers fear that it may follow the direction of other Climate Funds before it, which remain empty shells after they were shunned by industrialized countries, that favor undemocratic multilateral institutions the can control.

6. **Polluter not poor pays:**

Developed countries have prospered through "cheap carbon" growth while externalizing their costs to the atmosphere and to developing countries through what has been christened "offsetting". The costs are now born by Africa, as we mitigate and adapt to a crisis we played little role in causing. To avert a

climate catastrophe and enable mitigation, adaptation and technology transfer to developing countries, developed countries must make available financing of more than 1.5% of their GDP. Efforts to shift the burden of financing away from developed countries and towards developing countries or the markets that have not worked should be avoided. Creation of "unsupported" or "market" NAMAs (actions) are inconsistent with the Convention and thus experiments that are not worth investing.

7. **Transfer the tools to adapt and develop.**

A "Marshall Plan for Africa and for the Earth" is an emergency that should awaken all stakeholders. Curbing global emissions within a decade requires technology transfers on a scale never before considered. African leaders should compel developed countries to remove intellectual property rights, pay full incremental costs of technology transfer to protect developing countries and contribute for peaking and declining of global emissions. Efforts to sell rather than transfer appropriate technologies, or to strengthen rather than relax intellectual property rights should not be allowed. Developed and developing countries should support the adoption and development of indigenous and locally innovated technology as well as ensuring efficiency in technology transfer and deployment.

8. **Fair not false solutions:**

Industrialized countries must not shift burdens to address climate change to developing countries, or seek to "divide and rule" the countries of the South, or to penalize developing countries through trade or other measures. Creation of global carbon markets or sectoral trading mechanisms, by which the developed countries will take more of Africa's rightful share of atmospheric space should be discouraged.

9. **Systems change not climate change:**

We should acknowledge the structural causes of the present crisis, and that the climate crisis will not be solved with the same level of thinking that created it. A new system that restores harmony with nature and among human beings should be the only sustainable way to comprehensively deal with climate change impacts. To balance with nature, there must first be equity among human beings. There is need for fundamental change to the current system of social and economic organization. A new order building on the wisdom of our civilizations to live well and to live in harmony with Mother Earth should be the common clarion call for our leaders.

10. **Keep to the commitments made:**

More pressure from African leaders to ensure developed countries honour and deliver on their commitment of providing US$100 Billion by the year 2020 should be exerted. Industrialised countries must scale up their Commitments to fulfil their obligation to provide adequate, new and additional funds as this amount is far from all estimates of climate finance needed by developing countries. In COP19, Africa should ask Parties to the Convention to establish a clear and transparent mechanism for monitoring, verification, and evaluation of delivery of climate funds.

Our leaders should call for immediate establishment of an independent process to conduct transparent and consultative verification on developed countries' claim that they have successfully delivered all FSF of over USD 30 billion to developing countries during 2010-2012 in accordance with controversial Copenhagen Accord, which metamorphosed into Cancun Agreement.

In light of the past failures and lessons learned from past and existing climate funds, the Green Climate Fund must ensure transparency, openness, local communities' easy access, country ownership and respond primarily to the needs of vulnerable communities. The Fund must respect such principles as sovereignty, self-determination the fulfilment of State obligations; "Do no harm", Financial integrity and anti-corruption, Public consultations, "Equity, non-discrimination and inclusion", "Compliance with International Law and Upward Harmonization with the Highest National and International Standards".

GCF must recognize that human and environmental rights obligations have primacy over financial obligations

11. **Gender equity and enhanced stakeholder participation:**

Though COP18 made some progress in recognizing gender in negotiating text, still much need to be done. Participation of women, youth, indigenous people and marginalized groups in UNFCCC negotiations and representation of Parties in bodies should be balanced between North and South, taking into account the respective differences.

12. **Defend democracy:**

The Since the UNFCCC constitutes the fundamental legal framework on climate change African leaders should demand for establishment of effective and accountable institutions under the Conference of Parties. Any response to the climate crisis that is of the people, by the people and for the people should be the guiding principle of future efforts.

Governments across the world should end years of delay and meet their moral, historical and legal obligations. Movements, people's organizations, civil society groups and citizens from all walks of life are gradually coming together in a global campaign on climate and environmental justice. African civil society's desire is to stand in solidarity with the leaders of any nation who seek a solution to climate change that is founded on justice, builds on the best available science, and ensures the well-being of Africans and other peoples and countries.

13. **Effective participation in Post 2015 and SDG process**

Africa should promote a Single framework with poverty alleviation at the centre and the three dimensions of sustainable development (environment, economic and social). A comprehensive mechanism to deal with the environment should be developed at the level of African Union Commission and the relevant institutional framework for sustainable development should be strengthened and the collaboration and sharing of information between the African missions in New York and the Capitals should be enhanced.

14. **United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA):**

As the strengthened and upgraded UNEP is poised to play an effective role as a follow-up to Rio+20 in integrating three dimensions of sustainable development, the Committee of Permanent Representatives allow full participation of Major Groups. Major Groups already accredited under UN ECOSSOCC should be recognized by UNEA, while elected MGSF Regional Representatives should be accorded speaking rights at the Committee of Permanent Representatives and UNEA. Broader partnerships between UNEP and other organizations in efforts to fulfil its mandate should always be promoted, with UNEP not limiting itself policy formulation but also implementation

EUROPE ANNUAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING (RCM) WITH MAJORGROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 15TH UNEP GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-15) AND FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF UNEP (UNEA-1), 4-5 NOVEMBER, 2013 (ISTANBUL, TURKEY)

KEY MESSAGES

The 2013 UNEP European Regional Consultation (RCM) with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) was held from 4 -5 November 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey, and prior to the UN Regional Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Europe and Central Asia held from 6-8 November 2013.

The RCM attracted UNEP accredited Major groups and stakeholders in Europe, ROE MGS partners involved in the Environment for Europe (EfE) process, the Caspian Convention, the Carpathian Convention, the Poverty and Environment Initiative, Environment and Security Initiative, the Black Sea, the Pan-European Biodiversity Platform and the European Environment and Health processes (EEHP).

The themes for the consultation included the new mechanisms for the engagement of MGS in UNEP (including UNEA), the 10 Years Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP), UNEP's role in the Post-2015 development agenda and SDGs and the implementation of UNEP PoW in the European region.

The following messages were put forward by the participants:

On the new mechanisms for the engagement of MGS in UNEP:

Welcomed the proposed new mechanisms for stakeholder engagement at UNEP in line with the spirit of paragraph 88h of the Rio Outcome Document;

Stakeholder contributions to UNEP should be based on local, national and regional experiences, practices and knowledge;

We support the principle of participation, meaningful engagement and access to intergovernmental processes for the afore mentioned stakeholders, as expressed in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), resolution 67/290 of July 9, 2013 establishing the High Level Political Forum, the HLPF, and further expressed in the Human Rights Covenants, the Arhus Convention and in similar documents of equal formal standing;

We further support the construct of the major groups by the UN at UNCED in 1992 through Agenda 21 and as recognised and further resolved by the Rio 2012 Summit. Also, criteria for stakeholder engagement must be developed, using the criteria enumerated in the 1996 ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 on Consultative Relationship between the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations;

Within the current 'nine major groups' configuration, environmental NGOs function today as a sub-set of the NGO major group despite their specific environmental profile and expertise. In the future work of UNEP, UNEP should recognize environmental NGOs as an additional and distinct major group with a guaranteed seat and voice in UNEP processes;

In view of the 'new UNEP' as expressed in the Rio Outcome Document, the mandate for regional representatives, their modalities, functions and roles need to be further adjusted and elaborated, and relevant modalities should be developed with the assistance of UNEP to function as conveners of regional environmental networks and their activities with the representatives of major groups.

In line with practise developed at the first UN Summit in 1992, the 2002 Johannesburg Summit and some of the best practise employed by other UN relevant conferences, accreditation should be given to all interested stakeholder organisation that can prove they comply with basic standards and criteria for organisations developed and utilised by UNEP;

Major groups and other stakeholders should always be given access to the UNEA of UNEP and its subsidiary bodies including the Open Ended CPR (Committee of Permanent Representatives) as well as other CPR meetings as appropriate and when needed; and

The proposed new mechanisms for stakeholder engagement will not succeed without adequate funding. Therefore, adequate funding should be made available to ensure quality input from major groups and other stakeholders, in terms of process as well as thematic work, and to promote continued and credible engagement in UNEP-related issues.

On the 10 Years Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP):

Fully support UNEP's continued role and work to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns in both developed and developing countries;

The 10YFP will only succeed if the international context is appropriate for its implementation. Therefore, we think that the SCP agenda cannot be isolated from other global trade and market policies. As indicated in paragraph 225 of the Rio+20 outcome document harmful and inefficient consumption and production policies and incentives have adverse impacts on the environment and communities at large, and undermine efforts to make sustainable choices and achieve sustainable development;

Therefore, we strongly recommend an accelerated phase out of the unsustainable and harmful subsidies and investments in the energy, agriculture and other sectors;

We strongly recommend that the 10YFP focus on changing and transforming the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, and going beyond promoting green consumption and production.

We would underline the importance of clearly identifying and directly addressing some of the fundamental obstacles to achieving SCP. These include a debt-based economy, which leads to GDP growth obsession and overconsumption of resources; financial, monetary and economic systems that are not appropriate to implementing SCP; and the existing "consumer blindness", leading to unrealistic consumption growth, without awareness and realization of its environmental and social consequences;

We therefore stress that technical and market based solutions will never be enough to tackle the environmental and social challenges posed by unsustainable patters of consumption and production. We need to focus on fundamental changes in lifestyles, as well as transformation of corporate value from maximizing profit to meeting social and environmental standards and responsibilities as a fundamental and legal objective;

We also caution that the SCP agenda is not only about the environment, but also about social improvements such as labour conditions and health and gender equality;

We recognize the highly energy and resource-intensive production patterns in many sectors contributing to the continued deterioration of the environment through emissions of waste, toxic materials, pollutants, and depletion of scarce resources. 10YFP should be effectively used to promote policies, incentives and actions to create sustainable production and energy patterns;

We are in favour of national and local strategies on SCP, including active stakeholder involvement, to guarantee implementation in the field. An international framework is nevertheless important, to harmonise the policies and regulations and create a level playing field. Capacity building work is also vital, especially for countries that are not very familiar with SCP policies;

We would like to see education and raising awareness on SCP mainstreamed in all programmes (including in school curricula); and

The discussion on sustainable consumption and production should be at the center of the post-2015 development agenda discussion and should also be considered as a stand-alone SDG.

On UNEP's role in the Post-2015 development agenda and SDGs:

Welcome and support the integrated approach promoted by UNEP and the discussion paper on Embedding the Environment in SDGs, and the UN Europe and Central Asia advocacy paper on "Building more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies in Europe and Central Asia";

Support the need to focus on the critical global environmental challenges, especially over the next decade, as choices made within this time frame will be crucial for preventing catastrophic climate change, saving our oceans, and protecting remaining natural forests – all of which are prerequisites for human development and well-being;

The Post-2015 development agenda should also focus on implementing obligations and commitments already made under the different the Multilateral Environmental Agreements;

Ensure the new goals must not only speak to and inspire governments and aid agencies, but the private sector, investors, and the public at large; and

Urge UNEP to support and assist the participation of MGS in the post-2015/SDGs related processes to promote the UNEP approach of embedding the environment in all the discussions leading to the SDGs and its implementation.

On the implementation of UNEP PoW in the European region:

Appreciate UNEP's effort for opening opportunities to include the views, expertise and knowledge of MGS in the implementation of the PoW;

Acknowledge UNEP's continued role and contribution in the environment and health process and in particular its continued support for the active participation and engagement of MGS in the process;

Appreciate the national stakeholder consultation for Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production held in different countries with a broad participation of national authorities, international organizations and NGOs; and

Further encouraged UNEP to increase and create additional opportunities to engage NGOs, the private sector, and scientists/academia in the development and implementation of regional programmes.

WEST ASIA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING WITH MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 15TH UNEP GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-15) AND FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF UNEP (UNEA-1), 26 – 27 NOVEMBER 2013 (AMMAN, JORDAN)

Statement/recommendations

We, the participants at the Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting for West Asia, in preparation for the for the first United Nations Environment Programme General Assembly, and the fifteenth Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-15), held back-to-back with the Arab Water Dialogue, and at which 28 representatives of Major Groups were present on 26-27 of November 2013 in Amman, Jordan, agreed on the following:

Sustainable Development Goals- SDGs

Recognizing the importance of the efforts made by various bodies working on developing the Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda, we:

1. *Stress* the importance of balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic) in order to integrate the principles of justice, participation, transparency, accountability, democracy, respect for human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups, in addition to Agenda 21 and Rio principles, namely "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR), and the sovereignty of nations and people over their natural resources.

2. *Stipulate* the need for the global Sustainable Development Goals to take into consideration the specificities, priorities, and capacities of nations, in addition to regional and national policies, with a particular focus on freedom, peace, security, prevention of war and conflict, poverty eradication, in addition to food, energy, water, transportation, along with changing patterns of consumption and production, reduction in land degradation, drought and desertification, biodiversity conservation, disaster reduction and emergency preparation, being key priorities for achieving sustainable development.

3. *Request* that Sustainable Development Goals are clear, concise, scientific and limited in number, implementable with clear targets and measurable indicators that allow for monitoring and evaluating the progress toward sustainability

4. *Emphasize* the need to ensure the basic components or enablers to achieve these goals, particularly effective governance and implementation mechanisms including both the traditional methods such as funding and the development of effective mechanisms to provide opportunities for knowledge, transfer and indigenization of environment-friendly technology, along with capacity building, building partnerships and support for policy development.

5. *Demand* the strengthening of institutional framework for sustainable development at national and regional levels in a way that is in-line with the principles of Rio+20, through establishing effective and transparent bodies or councils, that are connected and accountable to the highest decision making authorities, empowered and mandated to implement and follow up on the Sustainable Development Goals and plans, specifically through:

    5.1 The establishment of a Council for Sustainable Development at the regional level that is directly linked to the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States, with mechanisms to ensure the engagement of civil society, major groups and stakeholders at all levels.

    5.2 The establishment of a Council for Sustainable Development at national level that is directly linked to the executive authority with mechanisms to ensure the engagement of civil society, major groups and stakeholders at all levels.

The right to information access

6. We *urge* States to activate Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration to make it a fundamental principle of engagement and partnership among civil society, major groups and stakeholders, through:

6.1 The adoption of the Bali Guidelines prepared by UNEP at the regional and national levels and the development of legislation, policies and appropriate mechanisms to ensure the right of access to information concerning the environment and sustainable development.

6.2 The introduction of environmental law principles and the integration of sustainable development concepts within the education curriculum (schools and universities) and extra-curricular awareness programmes.

6.3 The development and establishment of a sustainable development information and data network to support the decision-making and planning processes and initiatives at the government and civil society levels.

6.4 Ensuring the continuous implementation of environmental assessments along with the implementation of environmental impact assessments for all projects and programmes, to ensure impacts and risks are identified, addressed and managed.

6.5 The need to integrate the environmental dimension in national policies, strategies and programmes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable production and consumption

7. We *emphasize* the need to take advantage of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production to contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

8. We *urge* the governments of the region to implement the adopted Arab strategy and execute the policies that have been adopted through the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

9. We *urge* civil society to play a more active role in advocacy and raising awareness to rationalize consumption and production patterns.

Participation of civil society organizations and stakeholders

10. We *affirm* the need to update the institutional framework for civil society, major groups and stakeholders engagement in UNEP policy and programs and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and to develop the appropriate guidelines and policies to ensure their effective participation and engagement both at the regional and international levels. We affirm the need to:

10.1 Expand the major groups and stakeholder notion to include representation from other civil society organizations as well as other sectors such as the education sector, the media sector, people with disabilities etc.

10.2 Loosen the accreditation criteria of UNEP and ease the accreditation mechanisms to allow more effective and legitimate representation.

10.3 Ensure the independence of these Major Groups and stakeholders through self-organizing caucuses.

10.4 Adopt the principles related to participation, transparency, accountability, democracy, and good governance within the newly proposed institutional framework (currently under preparation).

10.5 Clarify the role and function of both the newly proposed institutional framework (currently called the Major Groups Facilitating Committee- MGFC) and the regional representation.

10.6 Ensure equal representation between the major groups and regional representation.

In regards to all that is related to the West Asia Region

We request the following:

11. Expanding and ensuring the representation of all civil society organizations and stakeholders (Major Groups) by raising awareness and mobilizing all groups through direct and official communication from UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia

12. Replicating the proposed institutional framework at the UNEP headquarters in the region, through the establishment of MGS regional committees at the regional level, composed of the various major groups and stakeholders, self-organized and managed on a rotational basis, and ensuring effective follow-up and coordination among them regionally and globally through the regional representation.

13. Strengthening the role of civil society and stakeholders in influencing national, regional and international policies related to the environment through the development of coordination and follow-up mechanisms with all major groups in West Asia, capacity building and establishing an information resource network for knowledge and experience sharing in the region.

14. Strengthening the role of the Regional Office for West Asia by enabling it to function more effectively by providing all the necessary financial resources to do so.

Regional priorities of West Asia

Given the political situation, state of war, occupation, conflict and insecurity conditions along with the over-exploitation of natural resources that some countries in West Asia are experiencing, which reflect negatively on the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as on the local communities and the environment resources, as well as the demographic challenge and unemployment, we request the following:

15. Strengthening the efforts to achieve peace and security in the region and respond to the challenges of countries who suffer from political tensions, occupation, conflicts and insecurity

16. Encouraging a balanced growth in development activities to ensure environmental sustainability and conservation, benefiting from the knowledge sharing and transfer of successful experiences in the region.

17. Devising a comprehensive vision of sustainable development among the Arab countries (including countries in the West Asia region) translated through a unified strategy, which shall be aligned with national plans and initiatives for sustainable development.

18. Sustainable use and management of natural resources at both national and regional levels.

19. Application and implementation of international laws and agreements with respect to infringements of natural resources between countries.

20. Strengthening of regional cooperation in the areas of development whilst encouraging technology transfer in the region through planning and determining the needs to ensure appropriate transfer and nationalization of technology with an emphasis on capacity building and training to ensure the promotion of sustainable development.

21. Encouraging investment in research and development (R&D).

22. Promoting the principles of good governance and anti-corruption in its various forms locally, nationally, regionally and internationally, in addition to ensuring the participation of civil society and stakeholders whilst ensuring transparency and accountability to strengthen their role hence enabling them to perform their role and function as fully capable partners in the development of national plans and policies.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ANNUAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING WITH MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 15TH UNEP GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-15) AND FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF UNEP (UNEA-1), 17 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 (PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA)

RECOMMENDATIONS

84 participants from 23 countries in Asia and the Pacific attended the Asia-Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting organized by UNEP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Satagoeri Project and Ecomom Korea and hosted by the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia. The meeting was held at the Imperial Garden & Villa Hotel, from 17-18 September 2013. The participants endorsed the following recommendations as necessary steps towards achieving environmental sustainability.

The environment is the foundation of all human activity and is the cornerstone for poverty alleviation. The key environmental challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region are access and control over natural resources, and the role of environmental sustainability as key elements to realize universal social protection, decent work and living wages and to achieve peace and security. Achieving sustainable consumption and production is also a critical issue of our time. The significant influence of corporations over countries in Asia-Pacific in shaping economic policies is preventing the realization of environmental and social objectives. We need to challenge the development paradigm that focuses only on economic growth while undermining human development and environmental sustainability.

The new development must be based on the principle of non-regression, embrace a holistic, rights based approach, and ensure that the human rights principles of equality, equity, justice – including gender equality and gender justice – non-discrimination, inclusive participation and decision making underpin its policies and practices and respect international human rights instruments such as United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Nationalities (UNDRIP), ILO C N. 169 including the right to development.

Environment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

The approach to the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs must create a constructive path to addressing environmental justice. We recommend that:

- The SDGs adopt a rights-based approach and ecosystem based approach to realize a transformative development agenda ;
- The new SDGs should include substantive targets and indicators to:
    - Realize clean air and equitable access to clean water, including safe drinking water;
    - Support sustainable cities and settlements;
    - Support non-toxic regions;
    - Ensure progress towards biodiversity conservation, access to and equitable sharing of benefits arising from sustainable use;
    - Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change with the holistic approach;
    - Move towards energy efficiency and truly renewable energy;
    - Protect, rehabilitate, conserve and develop natural resources (air, water bodies, oceans, land and forest management).
- There is a comprehensive global mechanism for regulating transnational corporations' activities in undermining sustainable development and national sovereignty and holding them accountable;

- Means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity-building) must be addressed in every goal and should be translated to the grassroots level while recognizing that governance is a necessary enabler for implementation;
- Develop better qualitative and quantitative time-bound indicators for measuring social environment impacts and including distributional aspects;
- Recognize transboundary environmental and social impacts of large-scale infrastructure projects, monoculture plantations, technological interventions, etc. and the need to adapt preventative and/ or mitigation measures.

Role of Major Groups and Stakeholder Mechanisms: Civil society has an important role to play in setting development policy which is rooted in their close connection to affected communities. Asia- Pacific civil society input can be facilitated by improving regional engagement in the global processes by:

- Increased support from UNEP to enable more effective civil society engagement in processes;
- Creating a regional Major Group Facilitation Mechanism which would be guided by 11 principles on Stakeholders participation in UNEP that will revisit the current Regional Major Group structure with a Committee of the 9 Major Group Representatives from the region, with the role of establishing thematic working groups based on the agenda of the UN Environment Assembly ;
- Ensure there is greater legitimacy and mandate of the Major Groups by encouraging broader participation of local and national groups especially from marginalized communities and by engaging in consultation with constituencies and building their capacity to engage;
- Bring the Asia-Pacific regional positions beyond UNEP meetings to all relevant regional and global meetings to enhance coherence and congruence of messages ;
- Ensure regular and substantive feedback and follow ups to members of the Major Group for greater transparency, accountability and legitimacy;
- Establish opportunities to interface with Government Representatives at the regional level. This is important for civil society in the region to put forward their messages to Government Representatives and to create opportunities for effective dialogue;
- Use technology to webcast all meetings and take advantage of social media such as twitter and email to collect questions and feedback during these meetings. Lessons could be learnt from UNFCCC working group meetings which are effectively using such technologies;
- Ensure there are stronger processes for local, national and sub-regional consultation to strengthen the regional process and ensure greater legitimacy.

Green economy and sustainable consumption and production: We are facing serious barriers to realizing sustainable management of natural resources and waste management. Barriers include ineffective government policies to align to sustainable development priorities and lack of public awareness and barriers to making producers abide to their responsibilities to green production. The significant influence of corporations over countries in shaping economic policies is preventing the realization of environmental and social objectives. At the same time, developed countries are affecting developing countries trade and cooperation agreements which do not address local people's needs. We can overcome these barriers by:

- Recognizing ecological limits in the greening of consumption and production and addressing it through:
    - Ensuring greater resource efficiency through reducing material input in the production pipeline;
    - Incentivizing industries to apply green solutions;
    - Shifting to sustainable energy systems and increasing renewable energy production;
    - Reviving and promoting traditional values and knowledge.
- Greening budgets through:
    - Auditing of budgets whether they contribute to greening or not;
    - Incentivizing industry and public efforts to implement green solutions;

- Introducing policy meters for green budgets should also include wasteland development and increasing renewable energy use, and waste management policies.

- Community mobilizations towards green solutions and shaping economic development policies through:
  - Education, literacy, and campaigning for free access to correct information;
  - Strengthening work on community-based solutions to sustainable livelihoods, ecotourism, energy sources etc ;
  - Community-level ecological waste management such as teaching communities how to manage waste and at the same time advocate for government policies on ecological waste management.

- Support Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and development justice by:
  - Giving Communities a say in determining their own development paths and priorities;
  - Supporting the increased consumption of poor people in the direction of addressing their needs for food, health and housing;
  - Creating better understanding of economic activities to realize social equity and greater regulation of the social economy and not relying on market-based solutions in reorienting the economy and changing the behavior and lifestyles of the public;
  - Lobbying governments and multilateral bodies so that economic development policies made at the national and international levels are oriented towards development justice.

Chemicals and Waste are having a damaging effect on the livelihoods of farming and rural communities affected by industrial agriculture and mining industry. Poor disposal of hazardous chemicals and GMOs are also affecting food security, human health and ecosystems. We call for the following measures:

At the National level:

- Ban riverine and ocean disposal of mine tailings ;
- Encourage governments to sign on to relevant international conventions e.g. Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- Establish a Commission of Enquiry into contamination by mining companies, of which government is a shareholder;
- Shift to organic agriculture and/or reduction of chemicals in farming and local practices;
- Promote community-based certification schemes for organic products;
- Establish monitoring and evaluation of impacts on human health and soil, air and water quality;
- Establish participatory methodology for rural women to change to more sustainable farming systems;
- Introduce community-level waste management and recycling of green waste;
- Encourage governments to pass and implement chemical-specific legislation;
- Reinforce and implement capacity-building for users and traders in chemicals;
- Embed environmental services into social and economic systems, including micro-finance;
- Increase accountability of polluters through mechanisms that bind polluters to respect human rights;
- Respect and promote the use of traditional knowledge skills and practices for sustainable livelihoods.

At the International level:

- Invite the Special Rapporteur from UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous People's to carry out a report on compliance;
- Establish sub-regional and/or regional facilities for environmentally sound disposal of hazardous waste and products containing toxic substances, including e-waste and impose a ban on the export of toxic and hazardous waste from developed countries to under-developed countries which are being used as dumping grounds for such wastes;
- Establish sub-regional and/or regional facilities for a global program of monitoring human health for toxics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals;
- Establish sub-regional and/or regional mechanism to assess the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of new technologies and development interventions, with active participation of civil society;
- More collaboration between FAO and UNEP on funding the shift to organic farming.

OF THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING WITH MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 15TH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-15) AND THE FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-1) OF UNEP), 18 AND 19 NOVEMBER 2013 (PANAMA CITY, PANAMA)

RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean, at the UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting held on 18 and 19 November 2013 in Panama City, Panama, in preparation for the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP and the 15th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, agree to support the following initiatives: the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goals and the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production, as well as the strengthening of participation of civil society organizations by adopting a policy for their involvement. Consequently,

Regarding the policy for involving the Major Groups and Stakeholders, **we call upon** the States to:

(i) move forward on the basis of the principle of non-retrogression;

(ii) include other, currently excluded groups, which could be incorporated based on the concept of 9+;

(iii) ensure a broadened participation of civil society organizations in UNEA and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), as well as in any current or future subsidiary body;

(iv) amend Rule of Procedure 69 to allow local and national organizations to also have access to accreditation;

(v) permit the accreditation of organizations that: (a) are not-for-profit institutions; (b) work on sustainable development issues with an emphasis on the environment; (c) have a minimum of two years' experience (except for those focused on children and adolescents); (d) work at the international, regional, national or local levels; and (e) have been legally established (except for those that work on issues relating to indigenous peoples, local communities and children and adolescents);

(vi) ensure the participation of civil society organizations in drafting agendas of meetings linked to the UNEP policymaking cycle, especially—but not exclusively—Regional Consultation Meetings, meetings of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and those of UNEA;

(vii) ensure equal status and opportunities between representatives of major groups and those of the regions;

(viii) ensure that representatives of the Major Groups are elected democratically by organizations of those groups, through public invitations and the dissemination of information on candidates;

(ix) ensure that regional representatives are democratically elected by attendees of Regional Consultation Meetings;

(x) establish clear accountability mechanisms for representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, whether they represent the Major Groups or the regions, including reports on their participation at each meeting or forum, as well as a report at the end of their mandate.

Regarding the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration:

We welcome the adoption of the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as the beginning of an open multilateral process undertaken to adopt an instrument for Latin America and the Caribbean embodied in a regional roadmap.

We appeal to the countries of the region that have not yet joined this process to do so without delay. Similarly, we ask the signatory countries to ensure the participation of all Major Groups and

Stakeholders in the process of negotiating and implementing this instrument, taking into account the Bali Guidelines as they carry out these endeavours.

We encourage UNEP to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms with intergovernmental agencies linked to sustainable development, especially with the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the regional economic commissions in general, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in order to work in an integrated manner and achieve greater internal consistency, promoting the active participation of civil society representatives in the process.

We urge the States of the region to build and strengthen the regulatory framework and the monitoring and accountability mechanisms, in order to implement and ensure the effective implementation of Principle 10.

Regarding the Sustainable Development Goals:

We invite the States to promote the active participation of the Major Groups and Stakeholders at the different stages of the processes of defining the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to channelling their visions, proposals and concerns at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels.

We ask the States to:

(i) extract the lessons learned and best practices stemming from the design and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, to facilitate

(ii) integration and balance between economic development, social equity and environmental sustainability;

(iii) recognize the relevance of the binding and non-binding instruments, and encourage and reinvigorate local Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter; and

(iv) respect different worldviews on development as well as those of Indigenous peoples and local communities. All of this in order to formulate the Sustainable Development Goals so as to frame public policy and realign the priorities of international cooperation.

Regarding the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production:

We urge the States to facilitate the participation of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in formulating, developing and implementing the programmes approved with regard to the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). Furthermore, we maintain that it is necessary to incorporate a programme to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which are one of the four priorities identified at the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We, the representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders of Latin America and the Caribbean, are committed to actively take part in building participatory processes and opportunities that draw together civil society and the States, in order to achieve sustainable development in the region.

Given in Panama City on 19 November 2013.

NORTH AMERICAN ANNUAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING WITH MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 15TH UNEP GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-15) AND FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF UNEP (UNEA-1), 3-4 DECEMBER 2013 (WASHINGTON D.C., USA)

KEY MESSAGES

In addition to broader concerns regarding a sustainable future, the two main themes for the Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) consultation were integrating environmental sustainability into the post-2015 development agenda and improving stakeholder engagement within UNEP.

Key points raised by participants at the Consultation are enumerated below.

These key messages reflect areas of general consensus. However, the various groups present do not necessarily endorse every conclusion.

Integrating Environmental Sustainability into the Post-2015 Agenda

Discussions on this theme revolved around the development of a new sustainability narrative. Urgency is central to the new narrative, stemming from the need to accept the physical limits to the Earth's carrying capacity. Environmental sustainability requires a global response. The new narrative should be relatable to all geographies, cultures and circumstances.

Integrating environmental sustainability into the post-2015 agenda requires an overarching narrative framework into which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are placed, and which can be used to guide the development of programs for their implementation. In an effort to limit the overall goals to a manageable number, the SDGs should feature a layered approach to the post-2015 development agenda. Environmental sustainability should be woven throughout the goals, with targets, metrics and indicators that are grounded in accepted science.

This framework should include:

- An emphasis on a rights-based approach, with a focus on human rights, but including other forms of rights, such as an intrinsic right to life for other species in their own habitat;
- An emphasis on universal responsibilities, acknowledging that sustainability will need to accommodate development in emerging economies;
- An emphasis on social and cultural values, meaning that while we are aware of economic and institutional dynamics, the post-2105 agenda is not driven by them;
- An emphasis on inclusion;
- An emphasis on well-being, which includes, but goes beyond, material well-being;

Other issues raised included ensuring that environmental sustainability was also embedded in the multilateral trade agreements that are outside the framework of UNEP, the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda.

There should be an SDG on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) with the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP framed as the means for implementation.

Improving Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP

UNEP should seek to broaden its stakeholder engagement beyond the nine Major Groups to increase the diversity of expertise and potentially include additional sectors. UNEP should revisit the rules for accreditation and change the requirements to allow national and regional groups.

There was concern that the eleven Principles of Stakeholder Engagement drafted and approved at the 14th GMGSF were not entirely reflected in the new proposed policy.

The Regional Offices of UNEP should also expand civil society presence and participation, recognizing that civil society organizations have a responsibility to develop their own means to be present and to participate.

A civil society/MGS presence in Nairobi is necessary in order to participate fully in the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on an ongoing basis. While distance technology enables some participation, physical presence is crucial in order to facilitate agenda setting as well as participation in the decisions of the CPR. UNEP should regularly inform and update civil society organizations with issues appearing before the CPR, so that those most affected have sufficient lead-time to make representations on their behalf.

Finally, civil society should be allowed and encouraged to self-organize into issues-based and regional caucuses in order to provide more focused civil society contributions to specific deliberations.

UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/8

Distr.: General
30 May 2014

English only

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 5 and 7 of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues

Budget and programme of work for the biennium 2016–2017 and the Environment Fund and other budgetary matters

Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

Report of the Executive Director**

Summary

The present report provides information, pursuant to paragraph 29 of Governing Council decision 27/13, on the institutional and administrative relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP serves as secretariat or performs secretariat functions. It also provides an overview of the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements in general and information on programmatic cooperation between the governing bodies and secretariats of UNEP and those agreements, bearing in mind paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", which, inter alia, calls for enhancing coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements as well as between those agreements and the United Nations system in the field.

The report has been prepared in consultation with the secretariats of the following multilateral environmental agreements: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Convention on Biological Diversity; Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention); Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention); Amended Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

** Issued without formal editing.

Convention); and Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention).

Prior to the preparation of the present report a report on the same subject dated 30 June 2013 was prepared on the basis of a consultative meeting between the secretariats of UNEP and the above-mentioned agreements held in Geneva on 3 June 2013. The secretariats of those agreements provided comments, on the basis of which a draft revised report dated 4 November 2013 was prepared, pending further consultation. A task team, established by the Executive Director and comprising representatives of the secretariats of those agreements and the relevant offices of the UNEP secretariat, has commenced consultations on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between them since its first meeting, on 3 February 2014. The task team is chaired by the Deputy Executive Director and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species serves as Vice-Chair. Two working groups – one on administrative arrangements and the other on programmatic cooperation – have been established under the task team, and they are chaired by representatives of the secretariats of CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity, respectively. Consultations on administrative arrangements and programmatic matters are currently under way through the two working groups. In the context of the task team, a draft of the present report was reviewed by the secretariats, including through a consultative meeting in Geneva (with video and telephone links to Bonn, Kingston and Nairobi) on 13 May 2014. As noted in the report, some administrative matters and programmatic cooperation will be discussed further by the above-mentioned task team working groups. The present report should therefore be considered a living document, subject to further updates reflecting outcomes of future deliberations of those working groups.

Contents

		Page
I	Overview of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements	4-7
II	Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and selected multilateral environmental agreements	7-22
A.	Legal basis of institutional arrangements	7-12
B.	Accountability and administrative and financial arrangements	12-18
III.	Programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements	19-22
Annex	Multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP provides the secretariat or perform secretariat functions	23-25

I. Overview of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

1. The institutional architecture for international environmental governance consists of a decentralized web of multilateral institutions, multilateral agreements, multilateral processes and consultative mechanisms that address environmental and environment-related matters within the broader context of sustainable development. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in accordance with its mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolutions 2997 (XXVII), the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 set out in resolution S-19/2 endorsing the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of UNEP, and paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/228, serves as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Governments have called for UNEP to be further strengthened.[1] At the same time, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) lead on issues relevant to their instruments and Governments have recognized their significant contributions to sustainable development.

2. As part of its mandate to catalyse international action on emerging environmental issues of concern to the international community and to support international cooperation in the field of the environment, UNEP has been supporting Governments to develop and implement multilateral environmental agreements since its inception, in particular through its Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law. Those agreements negotiated under the auspices of UNEP include: the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In addition, UNEP provided its institutional support to the secretariat for the negotiation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and made available its scientific and technical resources for the negotiation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. At the regional level, UNEP has supported Governments in the respective regions to develop regional agreements in the field of the environment, including: a number of regional seas conventions and protocols, such as those for the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention), the Caribbean Sea (Cartagena Convention), Eastern African regional seas (Nairobi Convention), Western, Central and Southern African regional seas (Abidjan Convention), the Caspian Sea (Teheran Convention), as well as those agreements in other areas, such as the preservation of mountain ranges of the Carpathians and the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Agreement).

3. In addition, UNEP, often in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system, has been assisting Governments to establish and operate intergovernmental institutional arrangements in the specific fields without having the corresponding international legally binding instruments, such as the regional seas action plans (for instance, Northwest Pacific Action Plan - NOWPAP, and East Asian Seas Action Plan - COBSEA), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

4. As emphasized in paragraph 89 of the Rio+20 outcome document, multilateral environmental agreements make significant contribution to sustainable development. Paragraph 89 further encourages the parties to those conventions to consider further measures to promote policy coherence at all levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions as well

[1] The Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want," endorsed by the General Assembly by its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 all refer to this role of UNEP.

as with the United Nations system in the field. [2] Specific multilateral environmental agreements were also highlighted in various paragraphs in the Rio+20 outcome document, such as paragraph 203 that recognizes the important role of CITES as an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development. Multilateral environmental agreements are governed by their respective parties, primarily through their governing bodies, such as conferences or meetings of the parties, and operated in accordance with the provisions of those agreements and the decisions of those bodies. They are independent international legal entities, and distinct from the organizations of the United Nations system while some of them are institutionally linked to them. For instance, the policy and financial decisions of the governing bodies of those agreements guide their implementation and related costed programmes of work and direct the management of the secretariats on all substantive issues, including programmatic issues. In principle, funds for the implementation of the agreements are provided by the Parties to the secretariats of the respective agreements.[3] The secretariats are required to ensure that decisions of the Parties are implemented effectively, within the funds provided, and Parties' requests are met, and secretariats are held accountable to their parties. The governing bodies of most multilateral environmental agreements have also addressed the issue of cooperation and synergies with other agreements and organizations, including UNEP, in their resolutions and decisions. Positive example of such cooperation and synergies include the Biodiversity Liaison Group, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 establishing an overarching framework for collaboration among relevant multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP and others, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force, and cooperation and coordination among chemicals and wastes related multilateral environmental agreements.

5. As highlighted in the fifth report of the Global Environment Outlook series (GEO-5) and also in the compilation of internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals submitted to the then Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session, a large number of internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals have been identified by the multilateral institutions and processes within and outside of the United Nations system. These include the main organs of the United Nations and United Nations summits and conferences, multilateral environmental agreements and other intergovernmental processes. Those objectives and goals are closely interrelated. Thus, while recognizing the autonomy of multilateral environmental agreements improved policy coherence in the decisions taken by the governing bodies to those agreements could be helpful for better efficiencies and for enhanced cooperation and coordination among and within their Parties, and also between these agreements and the United Nations system, as underscored in the Rio+20 outcome document.

6. A strengthened UNEP, in implementing paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, should, among other things, enhance its voice and its ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening its engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies, empowering it to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment. In carrying out this coordination mandate, originally stipulated in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) regarding coordination of environmental programmes of the UN system as well as in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21contained in General Assembly resolution S-19/2 regarding its role for coordination of multilateral environmental agreements, and also building upon its existing mandate, UNEP will further strengthen its actions to enhance cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements. It will also promote cooperation and coordination among those United Nations bodies and agreements. Parties to multilateral environmental agreements are acting themselves to enhance policy coherence and have taken decisions through their conferences or meetings of the parties to enhance such coherence, as was encouraged in paragraph 89 of Rio+20 outcome document.

---

[2] "The future we want", in paragraph. 89, reads as follows: "We recognize the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements. We acknowledge the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three Conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants). We encourage parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio Conventions as well as with the UN system in the field".

[3] In some cases, the organizations that provide the convention secretariats or secretariat functions provided their own financial resources to support the implementation of the respective agreements.

7. Also in pursuance of paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, UNEP is to promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessment processes, panels and information networks; to disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information, and raise public awareness on critical, as well as emerging, environmental issues; and to provide capacity-building and support to countries and facilitate access to technology. Strengthened actions by UNEP in those areas would be useful to the various multilateral environmental agreements and their governing bodies, enhance UNEP cooperation with the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and also enhance collaboration between the United Nations system and those agreements, and cooperation and coordination among those agreements. In this connection, multilateral environmental agreement governing bodies, scientific advisory bodies and secretariats are actively engaged with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), together with UN collaborative partners (UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP).

8. Paragraph 89 of the Rio+20 outcome document recognized the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements and acknowledges the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention). The outcome document encouraged parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in these and other clusters (for instance in the field of biodiversity), as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field. For instance, the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions held in 2013 expressed their interest to cooperate and coordinate with the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

9. With regard to capacity-building, it should be recalled that the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by the then UNEP Governing Council in its decision 23/1 of 25 February 2005, sets out as its objectives, among others, to strengthen the capacity of the Governments of developing countries, and also of countries with economies in transition, at all levels to comply with international agreements and implement their obligations at the national level. The Plan also sets out to achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives, as well as environment-related internationally agreed development goals; to provide a framework for capacity-building to ensure the effective participation of developing countries, and also countries with economies in transition, in negotiations concerning multilateral environmental agreements. The Plan equally aims to strengthen cooperation among the UNEP secretariats and multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, taking into account their autonomous decision-making processes, and other bodies engaged in environmental capacity-building. As such, while the Bali Strategic Plan may not have been specifically adopted by the governing bodies of any multilateral environmental agreements, it has been recognized by a number of them as a tool for capacity building and enhancement for their conventions and agreements. Therefore, the further implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan may provide a useful framework under which the governing bodies and secretariats of UNEP and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements might cooperate and coordinate activities related to capacity-building and technology support in the areas of common interest.

Next steps

10. One of the key opportunities of global governance to advance environmental sustainability is identifying where and how the multiplicity of international institutions and independent intergovernmental decision-making processes might support and reinforce each other and how to ensure policies and efforts are coherent. To seize this opportunity for meeting the need of the international community to achieve sustainability of the global environment, collaborative efforts between the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP should be further strengthened. From the perspective of multilateral environmental agreements, such collaboration is not limited to UNEP, and multilateral environmental agreements have strengthened their relationships with many entities within and outside the UN (e.g. UNCTAD, International Trade Centre, and International Tropical Timber Organization). In this context, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP may wish to continue to keep under review: (i) the relationships between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements; (ii) opportunities for the UNEP environmental assessment function to serve multilateral environmental agreements; (iii) opportunities to make the UNEP coordinating functions of environmental programmes of the UN system available to support multilateral environmental agreements' priorities; and (iv) opportunities to integrate multilateral environmental agreements priorities more fully into regional environmental strategies and national development strategies and plans of action, including UN Development Assistance Frameworks, with a view to seeking improved coherence of policies and enhancing cooperation and coordination between the UNEA of UNEP and the governing bodies of the respective agreements, as appropriate.

Such improved coherence and enhanced cooperation should support efforts by Governments that are parties to the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, to implement the relevant internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals and strengthening further international environmental governance.

II. Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and selected multilateral environmental agreements

A. Legal basis of institutional arrangements

11. A number of multilateral environmental agreements concluded since the 1970s have each established institutional arrangements composed of the respective agreement's governing body (such as the conferences of the parties or meetings of parties and their subsidiary bodies) and its secretariat to carry out the functions for operation of the agreement, as stipulated in its provisions. For selected multilateral environmental agreements, the Executive Director has been requested to provide the secretariat or secretariat functions. Such a request is specified in the provisions of those agreements or, pursuant to the relevant provisions of such agreements, as mandated by the decisions of the respective conferences or meetings of the parties. These arrangements have been approved by UNEP through the then Governing Council, which authorizes the Executive Director to carry out such functions.[4] Multilateral environmental agreements with such arrangements include the following (details of those respective institutional arrangements are contained in Annex):

(a) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

(b) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)[5];

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;[6]

(e) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

(f) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;

(g) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

(h) Minamata Convention on Mercury;

(i) Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention);

(j) Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention);

---

[4] General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), part II, para. 2.

[5] CMS is a framework convention under which four independent international legally binding agreements, with their own governing bodies, budget and programme of work and executive heads of the secretariats, have been developed, all of which are administered by UNEP and all co-located in Bonn, and the Executive Director is also responsible for them. These are AEWA, EUROBATS, Gorilla Agreement and ASCOBANS. CMS Executive Secretary currently serves as Interim Executive Secretary for the last two, namely Gorilla Agreement and ASCOBANS. In addition, UNEP through CMS is responsible for 19 specific species MOUs, some of which have dedicated coordinating offices. For instance: Two MOUs (Birds of Prey or Raptors and Dugong) hosted in Abu Dhabi and Marine Turtle hosted at ROAP, for which UNEP provides secretariat functions. In addition, there are other three legally binding agreements negotiated and adopted under the CMS framework but hosted by governments which also provides secretariat functions but which have close links, cooperation and relations with CMS as a framework convention. These agreements are: ACAP hosted by Australia Government in Tasmania, ACCOBAMS hosted by Malta Government in Monaco and Wadden Sea hosted by the German Government in Wilhelmshaven.

[6] The Convention secretariat is also known as the Ozone Secretariat. UNEP also acts as Treasurer of the Multilateral Fund in support to its Executive Committee, which is a subsidiary body of the Montreal Protocol. The Secretariat for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol is administratively linked to UNEP and located in Montreal and is headed by the Chief Officer who is a UNEP staff member and reports directly to the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund. The Fund Secretariat assists the Executive Committee in the discharge of its functions in accordance with the terms of reference of the Executive Committee. UNEP/DTIE also acts as one of the four implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund.

(k) Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention, Amended);

(l) Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention). [7]

12. The secretariat established by each of those multilateral environmental agreements is an integral part of the institutional structure of the convention concerned, and its functions are defined by the relevant provisions of the convention and further determined by its parties through decisions of the conference or the meeting of the parties or other governing bodies or established subsidiary bodies of the convention or the protocol. Those multilateral environmental agreements are legally autonomous, and independent from the United Nations bodies and agencies, each operates with its own autonomy and is governed by the provisions and its parties through the requirements of the agreements and their respective governing bodies. Within the institutional structure of each agreement, the convention secretariat, [8] in carrying out its functions as set out under the convention, is accountable to the parties to the convention through its governing bodies. The structure of the convention secretariat is normally determined though the budget approved by its governing bodies.

13. The funds for the operation of the convention, including financial resources for the functioning of the convention secretariat, are fully borne by the parties to the convention. However, in some particular cases, UNEP has funded the operations and functions of the respective convention secretariat, in particular during the initial period of commencing the provision of such secretariat functions, including as interim secretariat functions. For instance, in the case of CMS, the UNEP Governing Council, in its decision 12/13(IV) of 28 May 1984, authorized the Executive Director to make and appropriate financial contribution to the expenses of the CMS secretariat during the first four years after entry into force of the Convention. UNEP provided financial support also to the Nairobi and Abidjan conventions for some years in the past, and still supports the Abidjan Convention by providing the cost of the Coordinator of the secretariat but currently with an agreed schedule for reducing that cost over a period of time. [9]

14. As indicated above, those agreements set out provisions to request the Executive Director to provide the convention secretariat or to perform secretariat functions, or their conferences or meeting of the parties, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the convention, decided to designate UNEP as the entity providing secretariat functions. In consenting to such requests from the multilateral environmental agreements and their conferences or meetings of the parties, the Governing Council (which has been transformed into UNEA of UNEP) authorized the Executive Director to provide the secretariat functions in question. On the basis of such mutual agreement between the multilateral environmental agreements and their respective conferences of the parties on one hand and the UNEP governing body on the other hand, as shown in reciprocal decisions of those bodies, the Executive Director provides the secretariat or secretariat functions of the respective multilateral environmental agreements. Such institutional arrangements should be satisfactory to both parties. With regard to some agreements, memoranda of understanding or other documents have been or being concluded to define and clarify the institutional arrangements, accountability, roles and responsibilities to all relevant parties.

15. Each agreement defines the functions of its secretariat, and its governing body (such as the conference or meeting of the parties) determines the structure of the convention secretariat through its budget. However, given that those agreements are independent from the Charter of the United Nations and their governing bodies are not organs of the United Nations competent to oversee matters concerning UNEP, neither of them has the power or authority to establish an office or appoint staff within UNEP. The Executive Director is responsible for making necessary arrangements for the convention secretariats or secretariat functions within the institutional structure of the UNEP secretariat. For that purpose, the Executive Director has established offices dedicated to provide secretariat functions, each of which enjoys the necessary functional autonomy to deliver the work programme and budget approved by the governing bodies of the respective convention which is separate from the work programme and budget of the UNEP secretariat. Those secretariats respond to

[7] UNEP also provides the secretariat to the Northwest Pacific Action Plan and the East Asian Seas Action Plan - Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia.

[8] For the purpose of the present report, the term "convention secretariat" denotes the secretariat of the respective multilateral environmental agreements, and includes the secretariat for those agreements which have designation other than "Convention" (for example, an agreement).

[9] UNEP provided financial support also to the Lusaka Agreement, although the Agreement established its task force, not a secretariat, which was not institutionally linked to UNEP.

the decisions of the governing bodies of the respective multilateral environmental agreements, including those concerning the structure of the secretariat and budget. At the same time, they are part of the institutional structure of UNEP, follow and bound by the UN and UNEP rules and regulations and as staff members of UNEP, they are accountable to the Executive Director.[10]

16. The executive head and staff of each secretariat are UNEP staff members,[11] each of whom is accountable to the Executive Director in the performance of their duties as international civil servants of the United Nations appointed within the UNEP secretariat (with the exception of the FAO part of the executive head and staff of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat who are accountable to the Director General of FAO). The functions, grade and number of those staff are based on the structure of the convention secretariat determined by the respective governing bodies through the approved budget. The appointment of their staff is governed by the relevant regulations and rules of the United Nations as applicable to UNEP. Overall, since the UNEP secretariat is an integral part of the United Nations Secretariat,[12] any institutional arrangements for the Executive Director to provide the secretariat or secretariat functions for the relevant multilateral environmental agreements have to be in line with the principles, rules and procedures of the United Nations, and in compliance with the administrative and financial regulations and rules of the United Nations as applied to UNEP.

17. As the convention secretariats are each required to carry out the functions mandated by the provisions of the respective multilateral environmental agreements or by their governing bodies, they are substantively and programmatically autonomous, while operating within the context of UN rules and regulations as applicable to UNEP. In view of the need to ensure this operational autonomy of the convention secretariat, the Executive Director delegates, in writing, authority to the head of each convention secretariat to manage certain matters and functions within the convention secretariat, and in some cases, such as CITES, a memorandum of understanding also has been concluded to clarify the relationship between the relevant entities and their respective roles.

18. In some decisions of the conferences or meeting of the parties and their subsidiary governing bodies[13] to some multilateral environmental agreements, those governing bodies call directly on the head of the respective convention secretariats to take certain actions (instead of calling on the secretariat, as is the case with some other conventions and agreements). In such cases, the parties hold those heads of convention secretariats directly accountable to the respective governing bodies for taking such actions. In general, bearing in mind the requirements set out in the multilateral environmental agreements or laid down by their governing bodies, the head of the convention secretariat is considered to be accountable to the respective governing body in carrying out the secretariat functions of the convention. At the same time, the Executive Director is ultimately accountable to the governing bodies of the respective multilateral environmental agreements for ensuing the effective functioning of the convention secretariats. UNEP as the organization or the Executive Director is specifically designated by the respective conventions or their governing bodies to provide the secretariat or secretariat functions. However, as a matter of accepted practice most of the secretariats normally answer directly to their governing bodies regarding the delivery of their programme of work and the functioning of the secretariat.

19. Within the United Nations, the relationship between the Executive Director and the heads of the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements is described in the Secretary-General's Bulletin concerning the organization of the secretariat of UNEP, as follows:

> "While the convention secretariats are accountable to their respective conference of the parties for programme delivery, the chief executive officers of those conventions administered by UNEP (variously denominated as Executive Secretary, Secretary-General, Chief Officer or Coordinator) are accountable to the Executive Director. They operate with sufficient autonomy to discharge the functions that the various independent intergovernmental conferences of parties to the conventions have reposed in the Executive Director." [14]

---

[10] Regarding the accountability to the Executive Director, see Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/2006/13, paragraph 18.2, as reproduced in paragraph 19 of the present report.

[11] The conventions or their governing bodies each designated either UNEP as the organization or the Executive Director to provide the secretariat or secretariat functions. Accordingly, the reporting structure of staff and accompanying accountability framework are limited within the UNEP secretariat.

[12] ST/SGB/1997/5, sect. 3.

[13] For instance, the Standing Committee of CITES and the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund are such subsidiary governing bodies.

[14] ST/SGB/2006/13, sect.18.

20. With regard to the role and responsibility of the Executive Director to provide a secretariat or perform secretariat functions for a multilateral environmental agreement, the relevant institutional arrangements concerning the convention secretariat are made individually and as defined through a mutual consent between the authorities of the multilateral environmental agreement (i.e. Parties through the governing bodies of the agreement) and UNEP (i.e. the Executive Director as authorized by the governing body of UNEP). Given the autonomy of each of those authorities, as they are legally distinct and independent from each other, with no hierarchy between them, the institutional arrangements concerning the provision of the secretariat or secretariat functions for the agreement are considered to be of a contractual nature. The respective roles and responsibilities of the Executive Director and the head of the convention secretariat in the provision of secretariat services and functions may be understood on that basis. The Executive Director has the overall responsibility for the provision of the convention secretariat or secretariat functions, and he/she delegates some of these functions to the head of the convention secretariat through delegation of authority. In some cases, the role and responsibilities of the head of the convention secretariat may be further defined or clarified through contractual arrangement as agreed between the parties, through the governing bodies and the Executive Director.

21. Due to the unique circumstances for the development of institutional arrangements of each agreement, there are certain differences between the agreements with respect to the role and responsibilities of the Executive Director and the head of the convention secretariat. For instance, the secretariat services for the governing bodies of the respective agreements (e.g. conferences of the parties) may be set out in the rules of procedure for the respective bodies as well as within the text of the agreement itself. Certain rules direct the secretariat or the head of the secretariat to perform such functions,[15] some others make the head of the international organization designated as the secretariat (i.e. the Executive Director of UNEP) as the secretary-general of the conference who will appoint the executive secretary of the conference to carry out such secretariat services.[16]

22. It may be noted that the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in their concurrent decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among these conventions adopted at their simultaneous extraordinary meetings held in Bali, Indonesia, in February 2010,[17] decided to establish joint managerial functions and joint services of the Basel Convention Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat. At their second simultaneous extraordinary meetings held in Geneva in May 2013, the conferences of the parties to those conventions reviewed synergies arrangements and endorsed the matrix-based management approach and organization of the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention and the UNEP part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, as approved by the Executive Director.

23. With regard to the Rotterdam Convention, a memorandum of understanding was agreed in 2005 between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO concerning the arrangements to perform jointly the secretariat functions of the Rotterdam Convention. The Conference of the Parties to this Convention, in the above-mentioned decision on synergies adopted at its second simultaneous extraordinary meeting, noted that the FAO part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, which was not included in the matrix-based management approach and organization, contributes to all the operational areas as set out according to this approach and organization; thus it requested that the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions review the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO[18] to enhance synergies arrangements.

Regional seas conventions and other regional agreements

24. UNEP has a long standing mandate for the protection of the marine and coastal environment since its Governing Council adopted decision 1 (III. E.) on oceans at its first session in June 1973, which called for the development of a programme for the monitoring of marine pollution and its effects on marine ecosystems, paying particular attention to the special problems of specific bodies of water including some semi-enclosed seas, if the nations concerned so agree. Consequently, the Governing Council at its second session in 1974 established the UNEP Regional Seas Programme by

[15] In case of CITES, CMS, CBD, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

[16] In case of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and the Basel Convention

[17] The omnibus decision adopted by, respectively, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (decision BC.Ex-1/1), the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (decision RC.Ex-1/1) and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (decision SC.Ex-1/1).

[18] UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9.

its decision 2 (I. 4.) on oceans, which also requested UNEP to encourage and support preparations of regional agreements or conventions on the protection of specific bodies of water from pollution, particularly from land-based sources. Those decisions provided the basis for the development of both international legally binding and non-legally binding instruments under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

25. Over the years, UNEP has played an important role in facilitating and supporting the development of regional seas conventions and also non-legally binding action plans under and as part and parcel of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Thirteen Regional Seas programmes have been established under the auspices of UNEP, namely Black Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa, South Asian Seas, ROPME Sea Area, Mediterranean, North-East Pacific, Northwest Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South-East Pacific, Pacific, and Western, Central and Southern Africa.[19]

26. Through its Regional Seas Programme, UNEP provides the secretariats or secretariat functions for four regional seas conventions as well as two non-legally binding action plans[20] through the UNEP regional coordinating units (RCUs) of the respective regional seas conventions and action plans headed by Coordinators.

27. The legal basis for the relationships between those regional seas conventions and action plans and UNEP is the same as that for the relationships between the global multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP. However, the management of those coordinating units of the respective regional seas conventions as well as action plans and the reporting lines of their heads differ given the history of their establishment within the framework of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, as requested by the Parties to the respective conventions and action plans. It is through those coordinating units that secretariat functions are provided by UNEP within the structure of the UNEP secretariat, under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, which is currently embedded in the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation. Furthermore, this arrangement facilitates a close programmatic linkage and synergies between the regional seas conventions and action plans, especially those to which UNEP provides the secretariat or secretariat functions and the UNEP Programme of Work and its Marine and Coastal Strategy.

28. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme periodically coordinates the development of Regional Seas Strategic Directions, aiming at having a unified effort and strategic approach, and thus impact on the global stage. By its decision 22/2 III A of 7 February 2003, the then Governing Council requested the UNEP secretariat to encourage and support regional seas conventions and action plans to incorporate new strategic elements in their programmes of work, bringing those elements to the attention of their respective Member States through governing bodies and other relevant fora. Draft Regional Seas Strategic Directions are discussed and agreed upon at the annual Global Regional Seas Meetings organized by UNEP, and UNEP supports their implementation in the regions. The Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016 were agreed upon at the Fourteenth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, held in Nairobi in 2012.

29. Furthermore, UNEP, through its Regional Office for Europe in Geneva, serves on an interim basis as the secretariat of the following subregional conventions, following formal requests by their respective Conferences of Parties:

(a) Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention);

(b) Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention).

At the request of the respective parties, the UNEP Regional Director for Europe acts as the interim head of these conventions' secretariats. The secretariat functions are provided by UNEP within the structure of the UNEP secretariat, under the UNEP Regional Office for Europe.

30. The Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, at its first session held in Bamako, Mali, in June 2013, adopted decision DEC. 1/6 by which the

[19] Five independent programmes are partners and take part in the activities of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

[20] Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP); Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Region (COBSEA).

Conference requested UNEP to carry out the convention secretariat's functions, provided that the UNEA of the UNEP authorizes the Executive Director to perform such functions.

B. Accountability and administrative and financial arrangements

Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements and the Executive Director

31. The memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Executive Director and the Chair of the Standing Committee of CITES on behalf of the parties, which clearly distinguishes between the administrative and programmatic (substantive) aspects of the inter-relationship between CITES and UNEP. The internal auditors, after their review of the secretariat of the Basel Convention, suggested that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) should also be concluded with representatives of the parties to the Basel Convention. The respective bureaux of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions also requested the initiation of steps to develop MOUs between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties, the first drafts of which were submitted to the respective Conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2013. Similarly, the parties to the Barcelona Convention also requested that a comparable agreement should be signed with that Convention. A proposal for a similar arrangement was put forward to the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), on the occasion of its fortieth session on 7-8 November 2012. With regard to the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol, a need for an MOU between the Parties and UNEP for clarifying the administrative or substantive relationship has not risen. It implied that the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol have been satisfied with UNEP serving as the Secretariat for the Convention and the Protocol through the Ozone Secretariat and in the case of the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, through the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund. Following recommendations by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, consultations are ongoing with the secretariat of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (as well as the Multilateral Fund), and CMS in this regard to identify the best instrument.

32. Subsequently, the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at their respective meetings held in Geneva in May 2013, each noted the proposal for the development of memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning the provision of secretariat functions. The conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions each recognized that openness, transparency and the application of an equal and harmonized approach to the relationship between UNEP (and FAO in the case of the Rotterdam Convention) and the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats that it administers should apply to the development and implementation of institutional arrangements for the provision of the secretariat functions for the respective agreements, and requested the Executive Secretary (or Executive Secretaries in the case of the Rotterdam Convention) to submit a revised draft memorandum of understanding (or a first draft MOU in the case of the Rotterdam Convention) to the conferences of the parties at their next meetings in May 2015.

33. In its Decision IG.20/13 on Governance, the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, held in Paris in February 2012, requested UNEP to work during the next biennium with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties on finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Secretariat Services to and support of the Convention, including the policy on bad debts and to submit the Memorandum of Understanding to the 19th Meeting of Contracting Parties.[21]

Administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Executive Director

34. The Executive Director and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed the revised administrative arrangements between UNEP and the Convention Secretariat in October 2010. This was endorsed by the Conference of Parties at its tenth meeting in its decision X/45. A delegation of authority from the Executive Director to the Executive Secretary with respect to managerial financial and administrative arrangements was signed in September 2012. Like the revised administrative arrangements, the delegation of authority recognizes the dual reporting and accountability lines, as well as the applicability of United Nations and UNEP rules and regulations with respect to the Convention Secretariat's operation.

[21] The September 2013 Meeting of the MAP focal points agreed to defer the consideration of the draft memorandum of understanding, which was submitted by UNEP as requested, to a later date due to the fact that the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP was still discussing on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat or secretariat functions, and that a document on the issue would be submitted to UNEA in June 2014.

Accountability framework between the Executive Director of UNEP and the head of the Convention Secretariat: delegation of authority

35. A written "delegation of authority" serves as one of the managerial instruments for the Executive Director to provide the senior official designated as the head of the Convention Secretariat[22] with the necessary authority to exercise his or her functions with the required autonomy. This delegation of authority also governs accountability between the Executive Director and that official. It is intended to ensure the provision of secretariat services to the respective conventions and to delegate the appropriate authority and responsibility to the head of the convention secretariat in an accountability context.

36. At the United Nations, the delegation of authority is deemed to be personal between individual senior staff by which they were held accountable.

37. The Executive Director has thus delegated part of his authority on managerial, administrative and financial matters to the Secretary-General of CITES; the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, of the Stockholm Convention and of the UNEP part of the Rotterdam Convention; the Executive Secretary of CMS; the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Executive Secretary of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, the heads of the regional seas conventions secretariats. The delegation of authority to the UNEP Regional Director for Europe makes specific reference to the responsibility concerning the Teheran Convention and the Carpathian Convention.

38. Normally, the Executive Director delegates the necessary authority to the head of the Convention Secretariat on administrative and financial matters to enable him/her to manage and represent the Secretariat on his behalf with the level of autonomy required for maintaining an efficient and cost-effective operation of the Secretariat, while mitigating the organization's exposure to risk. Such a delegation covers, inter alia: programme management; financial and physical resources management, human resources management and any other related matters, where decisions by the head of the Convention Secretariat may be the most effective for the operation of the Secretariat. The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring that the head of the Convention Secretariat exercises any such delegated authority in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations and UNEP, as well as decisions of the parties to the Convention.

39. In the case of the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, the Executive Director decided to entrust the overall responsibility for those Programmes to the Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI). Individual Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, for which UNEP provides the Secretariat or Secretariat functions, are an integral part of the respective Regional Seas Programmes. The heads of the Regional Coordinating Units, through which UNEP provides the Secretariat to the relevant Regional Seas Conventions and action plans, report to the Executive Director through the Director of DEPI and the Deputy Executive Director. The DEPI Director supervises the implementation of the authority delegated by the Executive Director to such heads at the request of the DEPI Director, on specific aspects and responsibilities.

40. Each of the UNEP Regional Seas Coordinating Units is composed of UNEP staff members, and is headed by a UNEP staff member. As the executive head of the UNEP secretariat, the Executive Director has delegated the responsibility to manage those UNEP staff members, who are part of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, to the Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, who is responsible for such Programme, and those staff members are each accountable to him/her in the performance of their duties as international civil servants of the United Nations appointed within the UNEP secretariat. The functions, grade and number of those staff are based on the structure of the Regional Coordinating Unit, which is in turn determined by the resources allocated by respective governing bodies of the regional seas conventions and action plans through the approved budget, as well as the work programme. The appointment of those staff members is governed by the relevant regulations and rules of the United Nations as applicable to UNEP. The Executive Director remains are ultimately accountable to the parties of the corresponding conventions.

Interface between the secretariats of UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements

41. Within the UNEP secretariat, the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions is responsible for the interface between the UNEP secretariat and the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements with regard to institutional issues in general, while the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation is responsible for the interface on institutional issues

[22] Or the Protocol Secretariat, or a subsidiary body established under that Convention or Protocol, as the case maybe.

between the relevant regional seas conventions and UNEP, and the Regional Office for Europe serves as the interim secretariat for the Teheran and Carpathian conventions. Regarding programmatic collaboration, the relevant divisions and branches collaborate directly on their specific topic with the secretariats of the relevant conventions, for example DTIE on matters related to green economy or DEWA concerning the UNEP-Live or DEPI with respect to its entire Regional Seas Programme. With regard to financial and administrative matters, Office for Operations is responsible for the day-to-day interaction with the multilateral environmental agreements secretariats.

42. Meetings of the UNEP senior management team and the heads of the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements have been convened from time to time. These meetings deliberate on issues of common interest, such as those related to strengthening cooperation and collaboration in programmatic matters. These meetings will be held more regularly and may discuss issues of common interest to the secretariats and the governing bodies of both UNEP and the respective agreements.

43. The Executive Director has played an important role in the negotiation of some substantive policy issues and helped Parties to make a breakthrough in deciding on difficult policy issues at a number of meetings of the governing bodies of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements for the past decades. In that regard, the Executive Director has been an important element of the interface between UNEP and some multilateral environmental agreements, as well as in facilitating negotiations amongst the parties when required.

44. In the case of the Regional Seas Programmes, there is a dedicated interface in the Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, where the UNEP Regional Seas Programme is embedded. In this sense, the Coordinator of the Regionals Seas Programme and his/her staff in the Branch support both administrative and programmatic matters in the Regional Seas Coordinating Units. Support to the Coordinating Units includes, among other things, technical, legal and administrative issues.

Coherence in administrative arrangements between global and regional multilateral environmental agreements

45. Each multilateral environmental agreement has specific objectives which translate into needs and requirements, level of resources, scope and mandates or guidance provided by the respective parties. It is therefore necessary for the UNEP secretariat, while trying to ensure coherence and consistency in the treatment of its relationship with the secretariat of each of the relevant agreements, to take fully into account the specificities of each agreement. For this reason, memoranda of understanding with the parties, delegations of authority to heads of the secretariats, and other instruments are tailored to the requirements of each agreement. In the case of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and also the CMS and related agreements on migratory species of wild animals, they are provided for in a synergistic manner.

Need for access to efficient administrative services[23]

46. Administrative services to the multilateral environmental agreements secretariat involve not only the UNEP secretariat, particularly its Office for Operations, but also different service providers to which the Executive Director has delegated certain authority to carry out relevant administrative functions for the UNEP secretariat, including United Nations entities such as UNON, UNOG, the United Nations Staff College, or UNOPS. In this regard, the UNEP secretariat has concluded memoranda of understanding, matrices of responsibilities, and letters of agreement or service level agreements with a number of United Nations service providers, and these services are available to the Convention Secretariats, in order to provide the necessary clarity and predictability of services.

47. To this end, standard operating procedures for administrative and financial arrangements will be developed. The introduction of standard operating procedures will help clarify and establish the responsibility of individual units and officers regarding the provision of administrative services. UNEP standard operating procedures are available on the internet.

48. The introduction of further standard operating procedures should help ensure timely, consistent and predictable services provision by the relevant United Nations entities, such as UNON.

49. The service level agreements with United Nations entities, such as UNON, include key performance indicators which help evaluate the efficiency of the services. At the same time, with the introduction of a new enterprise resource planning tool (Umoja), the UNEP secretariat, and though it

[23] This issue will be discussed with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the context of the task force on administrative matters.

the relevant United Nations entities that provide administrative services such as UNON, and the relevant convention secretariats need to further consider workflows and other internal arrangements, including the specific roles of individual officers in all management and administration processes. This exercise is ongoing.

Human resources management

50. In general, while policies and budget regarding the structure of the secretariat of a multilateral environmental agreement are determined by the Parties to that agreement through its governing bodies, the United Nations staff rules and regulations as applied to UNEP govern the administration of human resource management of staff members of UNEP who service the secretariat of the multilateral environmental agreement.

51. Staff members of the secretariat of UNEP, who are recruited and administered under the staff relations and rules of the United Nations Secretariat, are each appointed by, or on behalf of, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, under regulations established by the General Assembly, as stipulated in paragraph 1 of article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations. Within that context, the Secretary-General promulgates administrative instructions and directives concerning human resources management. The Executive Director, through the delegation of authority to him/her by the Secretary-General, undertakes necessary actions regarding management of human resources of the UNEP secretariat, including those staff for the secretariat of multilateral environmental agreements. Within the UNEP secretariat, the Executive Director may delegate certain level of authority in that respect to senior managers, including the head of any secretariat of a multilateral environmental agreement.

52. With regard to human resources management, the delegation of authority was to enable the relevant work to be done more efficiently. In addition, the technical needs of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats have long been recognized The workforce of various parts of the United Nations Secretariat other than the UNEP secretariat, the UNEP secretariat and the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats requires a certain level of harmonization, for example, in the manner in which staff posts are classified. The Secretary-General holds Executive Director accountable for the implementation of overall human resources, policies and objectives, for example, regarding the speed of recruitment, gender balance in the workforce, or mediation efforts in cases of internal conflicts.

53. It may be recalled that the Joint Inspection Unit, in its report on management review of environmental governance within the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2008/3), recommended that the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Executive Director of UNEP and in consultation with the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, should undertake a review of UNEP and UNON practices concerning the recruitment of staff for multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, and propose steps to improve the staffing situation and geographical distribution of staff. Such a review should be carried out from time to time in order to improve efficiency in those areas.

Umoja: enterprise resource planning system

54. Pursuant to resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006 by which the General Assembly decided "to replace the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system or other comparable system", the United Nations will introduce "Umoja". Umoja will create leaner administrative processes and enable the organization to operate more efficiently; harmonize and standardize management of human, financial and material resources throughout the United Nations Secretariat, and the funds and programmes associated to it, such as UNEP; enhance efficiency, transparency and internal controls for all administrative transactions; and allow decision-makers (managers and Member States) to monitor and manage resources more effectively. While its pilot phase will started at a peace keeping mission from July 2013, its deployment at UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNON is scheduled for November 2014. Under Umoja, business will be conducted differently, and the roles and responsibilities of individual staff in charge of processing and authorizing transactions will be considerably streamlined. Umoja was designed for the entire United Nations Secretariat and it does not necessarily take into account the nature, nor requirements, of small convention secretariats. How it is implemented within the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats needs to be carefully managed to ensure it is done in a manner that does not affect their effective and efficient operation, noting the status of the secretariats as outlined in earlier paragraphs. [24]

[24] This issue will be discussed with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the context of the task force on administrative matters.

Financial rules

55. In principle, the operation of the multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP provides the secretariat or secretariat functions are fully funded by their respective Parties through their financial contribution to the convention. [25]

56. Financial management at the UNEP secretariat is governed by the financial regulations and rules of the UN, together with the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of UNEP and the financial rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme.

57. The governing bodies of CITES, CMS and the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, each adopted the terms of reference of the trust funds for the respected agreements, while the governing bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions each adopted the financial rules for the COP and its subsidiary bodies. Those terms of reference and financial rules each sets out provisions governing financial operations for the agreement and its governing body and spells out the responsibility for Parties, the Executive Director and the head of the Convention Secretariat.

58. Some Regional Seas conventions and action plans have adopted or are developing their specific procedures for the operation of the relevant Convention, its Protocols, its subsidiary bodies and the Action Plan as well as for the operation of the Convention/Action Plan Trust Fund and Secretariat, which complement the United Nations/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules applicable to the funds under the custody of the United Nations[26]. The governing bodies of Regional Seas conventions and action plans have also adopted terms of reference for the management of their Trust Funds.

Trust funds

59. The funds for the operation of the multilateral environmental agreements for which the Executive Director provides the secretariat or performs secretariat functions are held in trust funds. The establishment of such trust funds, in response to requests by the governing bodies of the relevant agreements, is subject to approval by the governing body of UNEP (previously the Governing Council, and now the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP), and all such trust funds are established in accordance with article V of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of UNEP, and are therefore governed by the financial rules of UNEP, last revised in 1997, and which are currently being updated, in consultation with the controller of the United Nations. The multilateral environmental agreement secretariats will be informed of the above process.[27]

Cost recovery

60. As mentioned above, the operation of the multilateral environmental agreements is funded entirely by their respective parties. This applies also to administrative support charges by the Executive Director equal to a certain agreed percentage in order to meet the cost of administrative activities. UNEP and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements are bound by this rule, under the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations, and the directives issued by the Controller of the United Nations from time to time. This is designed to ensure that resources authorized by Member States at the General Assembly or its subsidiary bodies (such as the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP) do not unwillingly subsidize, or be used for funding other operations external to the United Nations, including those controlled by other treaty bodies. Since the secretariat of UNEP uses, as part of its programme of work, resources allocated to it through the regular budget of the United Nations, the Environment Fund, and other extra budgetary resources, to support certain multilateral environmental agreements and their secretariats, the principle of cost recovery must therefore be applied as rigorously as possible when it comes to administrative costs. [28]

61. The services delivered to the multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations or UNEP provides the respective secretariats or secretariat functions, and programme-support costs charged for such services are budgeted and charged under the rules and practices established by the United Nations Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the United Nations Controller. In order to streamline the procedure for charging of these costs, the

[25] In some cases, the UNEP secretariat, with the approval of the UNEP Governing Council, provided Environment Fund budget for the operation of certain multilateral environmental agreements in the past.

[26] The Conference of the Parties of the Cartagena Convention, the Barcelona Convention and the Abidjan Convention have already adopted specific financial regulations, rules and procedures which complement the applicable United Nations/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules.

[27] This issue will be discussed with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the context of the task force on administrative matters.

[28] This issue, including concrete examples, will be discussed with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the context of the task force on administrative matters.

United Nations normally charges a standard percentage of delivery for these programme support costs (PSC), calculated on the basis of the average cost across the organization for providing such services. It is currently established as at 13% of delivery. To help understand and enhance the application of those rules and practices in budgeting of relevant services, a guideline concerning the application of those rules and practices needs to be elaborated.

62. Normally, the Executive Director, having delegated part of his/her authority and responsibility for the provision of administrative services to the heads of the secretariats of the respective multilateral environmental agreements, allocates an appropriate share (typically two thirds) of the annual Programme Support Costs (PSC) income of the previous year attributable to all of the trust funds of the Convention to the Secretariat. This enables the head of the secretariat of a given multilateral environmental agreement to recruit and incur other expenditures for the purpose of carrying out these delegated administrative functions. This arrangement is financially viable if a certain level of economies of scale can be achieved. For this reason, it is applied routinely for the secretariats of global conventions and some regional seas conventions. In other cases, such as smaller regional conventions, this arrangement is not viable for the Convention Secretariat, and ad hoc arrangements are put in place.

63. The Executive Director allocates the remaining share of the PSC income attributable to all of the trust funds of the Convention (typically 4%, i.e. one third of 13 %) to finance central administrative functions, including administrative functions outsourced to UNON or UNOG; or the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS – audit, inspection and investigation), the United Nations Ethics Office, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Department of Management and the United Nations Board of Auditors. These central administrative functions include the following:

(a) Staff recruitment, classification and selection;

(b) Payroll and administration of staff entitlements;

(c) The United Nations financial disclosure programme (billed by United Nations Headquarters in New York);

(d) Accounting and finance functions, including statement preparation, the issuance of allotments and allocations, payables/receivables, cash-flow management, treasury and contributions receipt and recording, payments, billing and receipts;

(e) Administration of end-of-service and post-retirement benefits;

(f) Non-expendable property asset management;

(g) Internal audit, investigation, inspection and external audit;

(h) Participation in the United Nations administration of justice system, including support to mediation and the United Nations Dispute Tribunal;

(i) Shipping, pouch, visas and United Nations Laissez-Passers;

(j) Access to the corporate United Nations/UNEP intranet/internet and mail systems;

(k) Participation in the funding of the network of United Nations Resident Coordinators;

(l) Legal counselling, clearance of legal instruments and agreements, risk management and ultimate financial liability.

64. As a matter of principle, the Executive Director provides, through the list above and in a generic manner, accounts for the use of PSC for central administrative functions. [29]

Implications of IPSAS on multilateral environmental agreements [30]

65. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, decided to approve the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Accordingly, the United Nations, including UNEP, adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) with effect from 1 January 2014. While UNON is the lead entity in Nairobi and is responsible for the preparation of UNEP financial statements that are IPSAS compliant, the UNEP Executive Director retains the primary responsibility of timely and accurate financial statements. These include

[29] This issue will be discussed with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the context of the task force on administrative matters.

[30] This issue will be discussed with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the context of the task force on administrative matters.

records of all transactions on revenue, expenditure, assets, financial commitments and reserves. Some conventions secretariats also report directly to their parties and various governing bodies, including finance oversight bodies established by the parties, on financing of the secretariat and the use of extra budgetary resources.

66. The main change introduced by IPSAS is the adoption of accrual accounting as the basis of recording transactions and preparation of financial statements, instead of the cash and modified cash regimes currently implemented under UNSAS. This will entail a new approach to recognition of revenue and expenses as well as the capitalization of property, plant and equipment. The treatment of inventory (referred to as expendable property under UNSAS) also changes. The cycle of financial statements, and therefore of external audits, shifts from bi-annual to annual (with a corresponding increase in costs). Overall, the holding of accounts is under IPSAS is consistent with those of most governments and public administrations, facilitating dialogue with Member States.

67. All the multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP provides the secretariat or secretariat functions already form part of the financial statements and are fully consolidated within the other elements of UNEP operations, and this will continue under IPSAS.

68. Key areas which will affect the relevant multilateral environmental agreements secretariats are the following:

(a) Donor contributions agreements: revenue will be recognized and must be recorded upon signature of the contribution agreement, provided it has been reviewed and established that there is no binding condition requiring UNEP to return the funds, hence classified as non-conditional;

(b) Partnership agreements: depending on the conditionality provisions in the agreement, expenses will be recognized upon signature with the partner entity, and it is necessary to track and record all active partnership agreements, when disbursements are phased and to ensure that records reflect the status of each project, including closures;

(c) Leases and rental agreements: individual review will determine whether they should be classified as finance or operating leases;

(d) Plant, property and equipment: all plant, property and equipment must be documented, including the date of acquisition, location, physical condition and value;

(e) Inventory will be classified in two categories: (a) financial inventory and (b) operational inventory. The classification will determine the accounting treatment;

(f) Staff training: a number of staff have undertaken general IPSAS training, more focused and targeted training tailored to address specific shall continue throughout 2014.

69. More work is required on the implementation of IPSAS and its implications for convention secretariats but the information flow between the UNEP secretariat and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements secretariats on these and other items has intensified.

Staff training

70. Some multilateral environmental agreements and Regional Seas conventions and action plans secretariats requested for training of the secretariat staff for handling of management matters. The UNEP secretariat has been responding to the current and future training requirements, for example in the area of resource base management, procurement or IPSAS but also on specific policy needs identified by certain Secretariats. Access to mandatory training poses a major challenge to some Secretariats. Also it entered into an agreement with United Nations Staff College to undertake training, open to all staff, including those of the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, on such topics as results-based management, project formulation, and gender mainstreaming. Some secretariats have already benefitted from training by UNON.

Next steps

71. A number of bodies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in the development of international treaties in the field of the environment (which have been increasingly cited as multilateral environmental agreements) while some conventions were negotiated outside of the United Nations system. In addition to UNEP, for instance the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, IMO and IAEA have been assisting the respective Member States to develop and conclude environmental and environment-related conventions and protocols within their mandates, and provided relevant support to the parties as the secretariat of the respective conventions and protocols. Modalities of institutional arrangements for the provisions of convention secretariats or secretariat functions differ among them. In some cases, part of the existing

offices carry out the secretariat functions without establishing organizational units dedicated only for a specific convention or protocol. For example, regarding the FAO-part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, the Division of Plant Protection and Production provides the relevant secretariat functions. In case of UNEP, while its existing offices have served as the secretariat for the relevant regional seas conventions and protocols, the Executive Director has established separate offices with UNEP staff dedicated to serve as the secretariat or provide secretariat functions for the relevant global conventions and protocols, which is fully consistent with the role, function and nature of convention secretariats. This model was earlier followed for the institutional arrangements for the secretariats of CITES, and CMS, and then evolved into the arrangements for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, which were followed by the institutional arrangements for a number of subsequent global environmental conventions and protocols. In the above institutional arrangements, the Executive Director has been, and will remain, responsible to provide the secretariat or secretariat functions. In order to effectively meet the requirements for the provision of the convention secretariat or secretariat functions and improve delivery of related services it might be useful to examine various models of institutional arrangements for such purpose, including by learning from experiences of the other organizations that provide the secretariat or secretariat functions for multilateral environmental agreements.

72. With regard to the provision of administrative services to the respective convention secretariats, transparency, openness and efficiency should be the guiding principles in the provision of such services. However, in the past, there were concerns from parties to some conventions and also from some secretariats regarding the application of those principles in the provision of administrative services, including such issues as the lack of detailed information on the use of programme support costs, delays in the recruitment process for convention secretariat staff for which the parties already approved budget, the lack of clear terms of services, or inadequate consultation in determining certain administrative arrangements that affect the functioning of the convention secretariats. Efforts have been made to address those concerns to date by the convention secretariats, convention parties and the UNEP secretariat, which included a joint meeting chaired by the Director of UNEP DELC in Geneva on 3 June 2013. Informal dialogue among the Deputy Executive Director and the heads of the respective convention secretariats initiated in early 2014 (i.e. a task team with two working groups on administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation) was designed to make progress in further advancing this dialogue and collaborative efforts.

III. Programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

73. The UNEP secretariat, through its programme of work, collaborates with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements on a broad range of issues, with a view to enhancing synergies in the respective areas of programme activities. The current UNEP medium-term strategy for 2014-2017 and the programmes of work for 2014-2015 and the proposed draft programme of work for 2016-2017 have included, under the environmental governance subprogramme, the promotion of policy coherence between the United Nations system and multilateral environmental agreements, and the provision of support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, as main programme activity areas for UNEP. In addition, provision is made for programmatic collaboration with the selected multilateral environmental agreements in the specific thematic areas, such as climate change, biodiversity, ozone layer protection[31] and chemicals and wastes, in the other subprogrammes as well. Efforts are being made by UNEP to strengthen this collaboration and more can be done. Work areas of the multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, may form an integral part of the UNEP agenda and programme, and are therefore reflected as such in its policy, strategy documents and programme of work. At the implementation level, coordination is being sought at project and activity level to exchange information and inputs enabling cooperation, coordination and enhanced synergies, as appropriate. There are good examples of collaboration at the project level but they tend to be ad hoc, and improved collaboration can be sought. Focusing on a key environmental goal, for example the protection of atmosphere from pollution, UNEP and the relevant multilateral environmental agreements will have further opportunities for programmatic collaboration to achieve common objectives for achieving the sustainability of the global environment in the respective mandated areas.

74. Various offices within the UNEP secretariat work closely with the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements in a broad range of issues. In general, it should be noted that

[31] UNEP serves as one of the Implementing Agencies under the Multilateral Fund.

programmatic cooperation and collaboration may take place between UNEP and all relevant multilateral environmental agreements, between multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant organizations, and among multilateral environmental agreements. The parties to the multilateral environmental agreements may include, in the respective work programme of the agreements, programmatic cooperation and coordination between the multilateral environmental agreements and other multilateral environmental agreements or international organizations such as UNEP. While noting that each multilateral environmental agreement has specific programme of work defined by that agreement and its governing body, programmatic cooperation and coordination between the respective multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP and other entities within and outside of the United Nations system are important Where UNEP has been called upon by Parties to contribute in some way to the work of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements to carry out certain tasks, UNEP, within its mandate and available resources, responds to meet such requests. Convention secretariats have also enhanced the cooperation amongst themselves such as through the Biodiversity Liaison Group, which has proven to be an effective vehicle through which convention secretariats have been able to interact.

75. Programmatic cooperation between the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and the UNEP secretariat has varied depending upon the approaches taken by specific offices of the UNEP secretariat towards multilateral environmental at a given time and also has depended on the relevant decisions adopted by the respective governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements as they have decided, in all autonomy, of the extent and level of programmatic cooperation and coordination with other entities such as UNEP. There has been, nonetheless, a need for improved coordination of programmatic activities. Given the importance of enhancing synergies between the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP, such programmatic collaboration should become stable and coherent, taking into account the different objectives of these agreements and the mandates provided by the parties.

76. The governing bodies of the respective multilateral environmental agreements and the UNEA of UNEP could further facilitate such programmatic cooperation and coordination, as appropriate, by setting out modalities of such cooperation and coordination through concurrent decisions on issues of common interest. At the secretariat level, the task team established by the Executive Director and composed of the representatives of the selected multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the relevant offices of the UNEP secretariat has been deliberating on programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the respective multilateral environmental agreements, and will help identify areas for collaborative work.

77. As part of UNEP institutional support for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and for promoting programmatic cooperation and synergies among them and between UNEP and those agreements, UNEP programme officers, designated as regional focal points for multilateral environmental agreements (some of whom are responsible for the chemicals and wastes cluster and the others are responsible for the biodiversity cluster[32]) have been posted in UNEP regional offices.[33] Those programme officers, known as "MEA focal points" have been funded by extra-budgetary resources under the Environmental Governance subprogramme to date. The Secretary General, upon proposal by the Executive Director, submitted to the General Assembly a proposal to finance the MEA focal points through United Nations regular budget, among other UNEP posts that were proposed for funding by the United Nations regular budget. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the General Assembly has recommended a phased approach to this recruitment, and the General Assembly approved some of them for the biennium 2014- 15. The Executive Director intends to pursue the matter to ensure that such recruitment can be completed in 2016 under the regular budget of the United Nations.

78. The Compliance Assistance Programme of the Ozone Action Programme under the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP/DTIE), which consolidates the activities of UNEP as an Implementing agency of the Multilateral Fund, is a successful mechanism that networks the national ozone officers to achieve compliance with the Montreal Protocol through regional and international cooperation and exchange of experiences and information. The UNEP secretariat has also been partnering with a number of multilateral environmental agreements secretariats on the development of a common Internet-based information portal for multilateral environmental

[32] The Focal Points' role is to provide technical and advisory support directly to multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, as well as to enhance countries' capacities to implement multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and wastes cluster and the biodiversity cluster. They work at the regional and national level with countries by providing technical and advisory services, information exchange and capacity-building for synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

[33] Currently funded from extrabudgetary resources.

agreements, entitled "InforMEA",[34] under the Information and Knowledge Management initiative which is currently co-chaired by the CITES secretariat and the UNEP secretariat . In addition, substantive legal services had in the past been continuously provided the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

79. Areas of cooperation with the chemicals conventions, in particular through the Chemicals Branch of UNEP/DTIE, include the Persistent Organic Pollutants global monitoring programme, the Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Elimination Network and the DDT Global Alliance. The secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions have also provided staffing support to UNEP Chemicals Branch to aid in the successful mercury treaty negotiations, and shared with the SAICM secretariat to identify clearinghouse synergies. These secretariats and the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) also have a long history of cooperation on waste-related matters. [35]

80. Recent highlights of such programmatic collaboration also include: facilitating consultative processes on financing chemicals; support to developing countries to develop national legislation designed to enhance synergetic national implementation of conventions in the field of chemicals; capacity-building activities to promote the entry into force of the ban amendment to the Basel Convention; capacity-building assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to promote compliance with and enforcement of the selected multilateral environmental agreements, including training workshops for prosecutors and customs officials; information exchange, at an international conference convened by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNEP, on experiences and initiatives to combat illegal traffic and environmental crime in contravention of the obligations under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements;[36] regional training workshops to support negotiators from developing countries to prepare for meetings of the conferences of parties to the selected multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; capacity-building workshops to promote the integration of the relevant elements of the programmes of work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals into national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity for enhancing synergies in national implementation of those conventions and agreements.

81. In its relationship with the regional seas conventions and action plans, UNEP promotes coherence of policies, enhanced cooperation and coordination as well as increased efficiency. The integration of UNEP work with the regional seas conventions and action plans in turn increases the overall effectiveness of the global environmental policy while at the same time supports an efficient delivery at the regional level.

82. The Regional Seas Programme, based in headquarters and embedded in the UNEP structure and programme of work, provides the global overview and context in which the regions are inserted. Such a global framework furnishes the coherence needed for the regions to more easily insert themselves in the global seas and oceans structure and agenda, and thus better respond to the global ocean mandates while maintaining their regional specificities. As such, the different regional seas

[34] InforMEA is an interoperable information system for the benefit of multilateral environmental agreement parties and the environment community at large which harvests decisions and resolutions of the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements, news, events, membership of multilateral environmental agreements, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans from the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements . http://www.informea.org.

[35] A number of these areas of programmatic cooperation are noted in document UNEP/GC.27/4. A recent report of the Executive Director also provides information on the progress in the implementation of Governing Council decisions 26/12 and SS.XII/5 on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster (UNEP/GC.27/8.)

[36] The Green Customs Initiative is a partnership of international organizations cooperating to prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities and facilitation of the legal trade of these. Its objective is to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements. These include ozone depleting substances, toxic chemical products, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living-modified organisms. Partner organizations include: the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol, CITES, Interpol, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization, and UNEP.

conventions and action plans continue to be shaped according to the needs and priorities of specific regions –as identified and decided by the relevant participating governments- while being part of a global UNEP Programme, whose overall global strategy is ultimately defined by the UNEP governing body.

83. The regional seas conventions and their various protocols and action plans provide an example of cooperation between regional multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP secretariat through its programme of work. UNEP supports the regional coordinating units of the relevant regional seas conventions and action plans in a variety of issues, with a view to developing synergies and creating complementarity in the respective areas of the programme activities under the ecosystems management, environmental governance, chemicals and wastes, and climate change among other UNEP subprogrammes. The Marine and Coastal Strategy of UNEP, of which the Regional Seas Programme is one of the fundamental elements, was integrated in the UNEP medium-term strategy for 2010–2013, and the programmes of work for the biennia 2010–2011 and 2012–2013. The provision of support for the implementation of the regional seas conventions and action plans is one of the main programme activity areas for UNEP. Such programmatic collaboration will continue, as in the case of the multilateral environmental agreements, for the regional seas conventions and action plans, under the UNEP medium-term strategy for 2014–2017 and through the programme of work for 2014–2015.

84. As mentioned above, within the UNEP secretariat the Regional Seas Programme is one of the pillars of the Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, which works closely and coordinates programmatic and administrative activities with the regional seas conventions and action plans for which UNEP provides the secretariat or secretariat functions. While noting that each regional seas convention and action plan has its specific programme of work and budget, defined by that specific agreement and its governing body, it should be noted also that programmatic cooperation, coordination and support in the implementation of those conventions and action plans is provided by UNEP. Where UNEP has been called by participating governments of a given regionals seas convention or action plan, UNEP, within its mandate and available resources, or supporting fund raising for specific activities, programmes or initiatives, responds to such call from governments. Substantive legal services have been continuously provided by UNEP to the regional seas conventions and actions plans for which it provides the secretariat or secretariat functions.

Next steps

85. Ongoing programmatic collaboration and synergies between the UNEP secretariat and the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements should be further strengthened, so that relevant support is provided to Governments at various levels to reduce the gap between their commitment and implementation in achieving the relevant internationally agreed environmental goals. The Bali Strategic Plan provides a platform and mandate to provide such support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In particular, there are opportunities for such programmatic collaboration and synergies at the regional level, while UNEP strengthens its functions to support relevant efforts of Member States that are Parties to the multilateral environmental agreements in regions.

86. The task team established by the Executive Director and composed of the representatives of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the relevant offices of the UNEP secretariat has been elaborating, through one of the working groups of the task team, programmatic collaboration between the multilateral environmental agreements secretariats and the UNEP secretariat. The outcome of that elaboration is expected to become a useful foundation to facilitate such collaboration in the future.

Annex

Multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP provides the secretariat or perform secretariat functions

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Paragraph 1 of article XII of the Convention states that, upon entry into force of the Convention, a secretariat shall be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP. The Governing Council, in section VIII of decision 1(I) of 22 June 1973, authorized the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the Convention in accordance with its article XII. The secretariat is located in Geneva.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Paragraph 2 of article IX of the Convention states that, upon entry into force of the Convention, the secretariat shall be provided by the Executive Director of UNEP. In its decision 12/14 of 28 May 1984, the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to provide secretariat services for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with its article IX. The CMS secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany. Regarding multilateral environmental agreements related to the CMS, UNEP also administers the secretariats for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats in accordance with resolutions 1.1 and 3.1, respectively, of their respective Meetings of the Parties. Through the CMS Secretariat, UNEP also serves as secretariat on an interim basis for the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, in accordance with Resolution II of the fifth Meeting of the Parties. A similar arrangement applies to the Agreement of the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats, as agreed at the thirty-second Session of the CMS Standing Committee, and the First Meeting of the Parties of the Gorilla Agreement.

Convention on Biological Diversity

In paragraph 1 of article 24, the Convention established its secretariat, which also performs functions for its protocols. Accordingly, the secretariat performs functions also for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting in November/December 1994, decided to designate UNEP to carry out the functions of the secretariat while ensuring its autonomy to discharge the secretariat functions. In its decision 18/36 of 26 May 1995, the Governing Council welcomed the designation of UNEP to carry out the functions of the secretariat of this Convention and noted that UNEP ensured the latter's autonomy to discharge the secretariat functions. To that end, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, at its fourth meeting, endorsed the administrative arrangements between UNEP and the CBD Secretariat, contained in annex III of document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/24 and which entered into force on 30 June 1997. This was subsequently revised and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting in 2010 through its decision X/45. The secretariat is located in Montreal, Canada.

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer / Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

In paragraph 1 of article 7, the Convention set out the functions of the secretariat of the Convention and its protocol. In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 7, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, held in April 1989, decided to designate UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention, which also performs functions for the Protocol. In paragraph 4 of its decision 15/35 of 25 May 1989, the Governing Council welcomed with satisfaction, among other things, the designation of UNEP as the secretariat of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. The secretariat is located in Nairobi.[1]

[1] The Convention secretariat is also known as the Ozone Secretariat. The Secretariat for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which is administratively linked to UNEP and located in Montreal, is headed by the Chief Officer, who reports directly to the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund. The Fund Secretariat assists the Executive Committee in the discharge of its functions in accordance with the role and responsibilities established by the Executive Committee. UNEP also acts as the Treasurer of the Multilateral Fund, as well as one of the four implementing agencies of the Multilateral Fund. The mandate of the Multilateral Fund is to provide Parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol, with financial and

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

In paragraph 1 of article 16, the Convention set out the functions of the secretariat. The secretariat is also to perform functions for the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. In accordance with paragraph 3 of article 16, the Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting in December 1992, decided to request UNEP to carry out the functions of the Basel Convention secretariat, and further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to establish the secretariat in accordance with the structure contained in the budget and to locate it in Geneva.

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

By paragraph 1 of its article 19, the Convention establishes its secretariat and, in paragraph 3 of article 19, provides that the secretariat functions for the Convention shall be performed jointly by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), subject to such arrangements as shall be agreed between them and approved by the Conference of the Parties. By its decision SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, the Governing Council authorized the UNEP secretariat to participate in the secretariat of the Convention. The FAO Conference, at its Thirtieth Session in 1999, supported the primary role of FAO and UNEP in the convention secretariat. The Conference of the Parties, in its decision 2/5 adopted at its second meeting, approved the arrangements for the provision of the secretariat functions by UNEP and FAO as agreed in the memorandum of understanding between them. The secretariat is co-located in Geneva and Rome.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

By paragraph 1 of its article 20, the Convention establishes its secretariat and, in paragraph 3 of article 20, provides that the secretariat functions for the Convention shall be performed by the Executive Director of UNEP. By its decision 21/4 of 9 February 2001, the Governing Council authorized the participation of the UNEP secretariat in the secretariat to the Convention. The secretariat is located in Geneva.

Minamata Convention on Mercury

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 24 of the Convention, the secretariat functions for this Convention shall be performed by the Executive Director of UNEP, unless the Conference of the Parties decides, by a three fourths majority of the Parties present and voting, to entrust the secretariat functions to one or more other international organizations. The Convention was adopted in Kumamoto, Japan on 10 October 2013, and it has not entered into force yet.

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)

By article 17 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as responsible for carrying out the secretariat functions, which are provided through the UNEP Mediterranean Coordinating Unit in Athens.

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

By article 15 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as responsible for carrying out the secretariat functions, which are provided through the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme in Kingston.

Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention, Amended)

By article 17 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention. UNEP provides the Secretariat to the Nairobi Convention through the relevant UNEP Coordinating Unit in Nairobi.

technical assistance, including the transfer of technologies, to enable their compliance with the Montreal Protocol's control measures for the phase-out of ozone depleting substances.

Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention)

By article 16 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties designated UNEP as the secretariat of the Convention, and its secretariat functions are carried out through the UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit in Abidjan.

UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/9

Distr.: General
16 May 2014

English only

United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Policy issues

Corporate memorandums of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other bodies of the United Nations system

Note by the Executive Director

In accordance with Governing Council decision 17/8, the Executive Director has the honour to present, in the annex to the present note, a table listing the corporate memorandums of understanding concluded between the United Nations Environment Programme and other bodies of the United Nations system since the Executive Director's previous note to the Council on the subject (UNEP/GC.27/INF/9). The table has not been formally edited.

* UNEP//EA.1/1.

K1401003 260514

Annex

2014 Agency/intergovernmental bodies

Date signed	*Reference*	*Body*	*Title*	*Brief*
10 March 2014	UNEP/UNV	United Nations Volunteers	MoU Between UNEP and UNV	- This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was concluded in March 2014 with an initial duration of two years, upon which it would renew automatically on a yearly basis unless terminated earlier. - Through this MoU, UNEP confirmed its commitment to work with UNV towards enhancing an environment within which volunteerism is recognized as a significant element in the success of UNEP programmes and activities in accordance with its mandate. And UNV confirmed its commitment to supporting UNEP's mission through volunteerism for peace and development including the provision of UN Volunteers who are dedicated towards the mandate of UNEP and who have the appropriate qualifications, skills and profile required for UNEP offices. - This MOU outlines the operational framework of collaboration between the Parties.
27 March 2014	UNEP/IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	Practical arrangements Between UNEP and IAEA on cooperation in the area of sustainable environmental management	- This agreement was signed by UNEP in March 2014, and will remain valid for six years. - The scope of cooperation under this agreement is in support of affected country parties of UNEP and Member States of the IAEA improving their scientific and technological capabilities to address environmental management challenges, and to sustainably manage the conservation and use of natural resources and maintain healthy ecosystems under the increasing impacts of climate change and variability. Expanded cooperation is also envisaged through the planning and design of natural resource management projects within the programmatic focus of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), whereby UNEP has comparative advantage in formulating such projects as Implementing Agency of the GEF and the IAEA has complimentary advantage as an Executing Agency of the GEF. - The objectives of this agreement is: o To develop working relationships that promote sustainable environmental management for the well-being of present and future generations through enhanced conservation of resources and ecosystems, enhanced resource efficiency and cleaner/safer production by drawing upon the comparative advantages of each institution, and by jointly looking at bridging the gap between science and policy; o To establish and advance the scientific, technological and managerial capabilities of affected Member States, with support to mainstreaming science and technology in the policy making process; o To build effective synergies in supporting the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), The Minimata Convention on Mercury, and the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land based activities (GPA) and the respective Regional Seas conventions, through the delivery of technical cooperation and communication activities.

Total number of agreements: 2